



# THE INDEPENDENT

## ON SATURDAY

Saturday 29 November 1997 (IRGSp) 70p No 3,469



INSIDE YOUR 5-SECTION PAPER

**Christmas shopping: our mouth-watering 40 page guide**  
THE MAGAZINE



**Frank Skinner: Watt a show at the power station** THE EYE

**Farewell Peter O'Sullivan. Hello Bjorn Borg**  
SPORT

### TODAY'S NEWS

#### Second body 'lost' after Luxor massacre

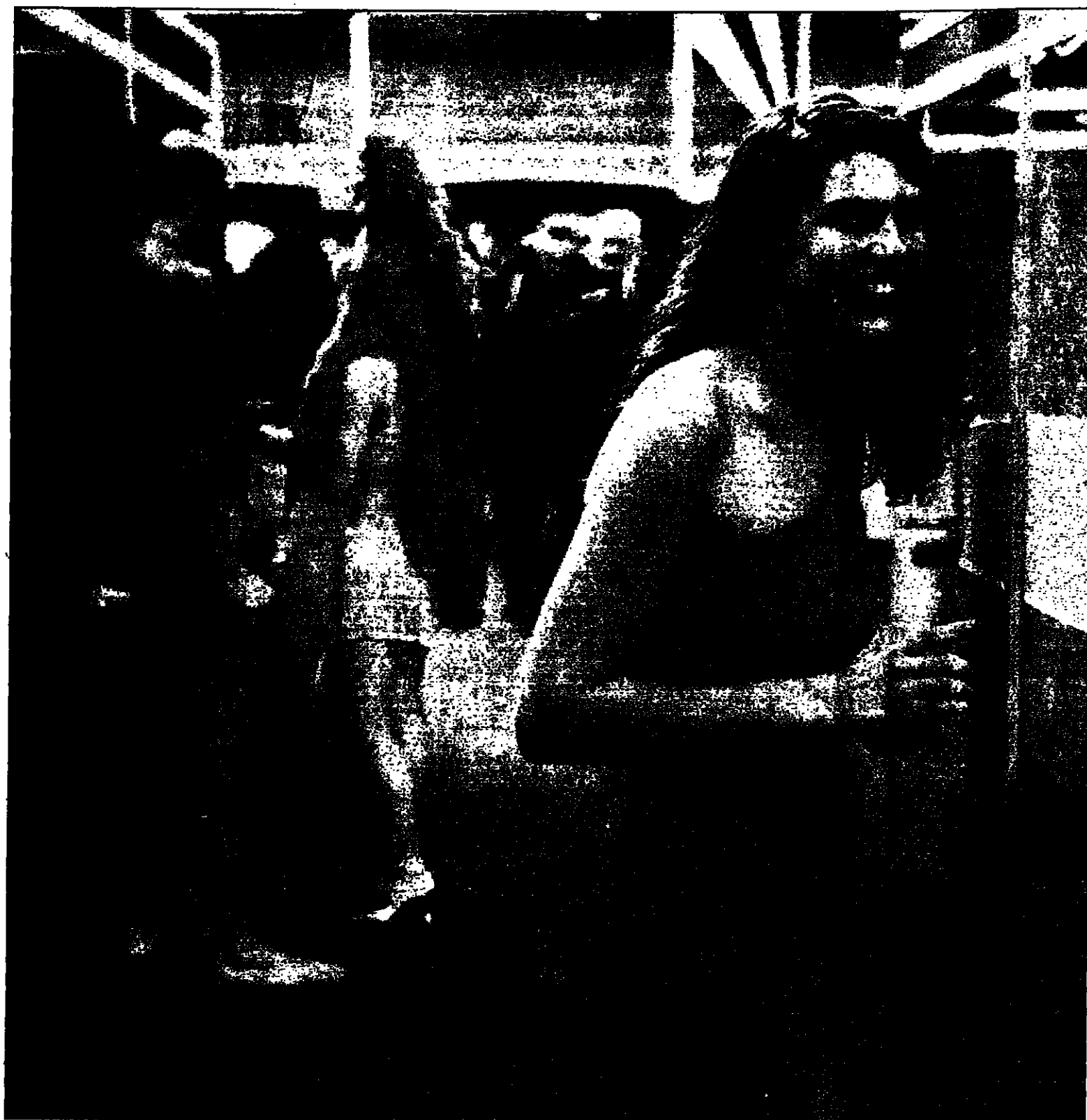
A second body from a family of British victims of the Luxor terrorist attack had disappeared on its way home. A coroner admitted he had "no idea" what had happened to the body of Karina Turner. A body flown back to Halifax, West Yorkshire, had been believed to have been that of the 24-year-old air stewardess. But a West Yorkshire coroner, James Turnbull, said yesterday that dental records proved the body was not hers. He said it was possible that her body may already have been buried or cremated. It followed a similar mix-up earlier this week, when it emerged that the body identified as that of Ms Turner's mother, Joan Turner, was in fact that of a Swiss citizen. Her body has been located in Zurich. Yesterday Mr Turnbull described the situation as "total chaos" and said relatives were suffering "indescribable distress". Page 3

#### Class sizes are up again

Class sizes in state schools rose again last year to 18.6 per pupil, figures show, slightly up on the previous year and in stark contrast to the figure of 17.3 pupils per teacher 10 years ago. As the figures were released, the Government announced that it is to try to recruit more primary teachers, partly to help fulfil Labour's manifesto commitment to cut class sizes for five-, six- and seven-year-olds to 30 or below by 2002, a promise which, despite yesterday's bad news, it remains committed to. Page 8

#### The Therapist of Oz

MGM, one of the world's biggest and best-known film studios, has asked a Hertfordshire therapist to endorse its classic children's film *The Wizard of Oz*. The psychotherapist, Bernie Wooster, says it "makes excellent viewing for responsible parents who are interested in the healthy emotional development of their children." He insisted yesterday: "This is not a gimmick", and gave examples of other films which had helped patients, including a depressed businessman who was convulsed with sobs when he saw Whoopi Goldberg in *The Color Purple*. Page 5



'Nothing as tawdry as sex': One of the participants in the Erotica Show at Olympia, west London, yesterday

Photograph: David Rose

### Erotica show gives Britain a first

The Erotica show that opened at Olympia yesterday may not have been the Full Monty but it was certainly more than Britain had ever seen before.

"It's a first for this country," said organiser Brian Wiseman who insists the three-day affair is all about the erotic and nothing as tawdry as sex. Others, such as the woman from Surrender armoured clothing, agrees: "You know the fetish scene is becoming very mainstream these days. You see rubber in the High Street." Well, you certainly saw it yesterday at Olympia, as well as almost everything else. "I think England should loosen up a bit," said one 26-year-old. "We could use a little less fox-hunting and a little more of this." Mr Wiseman says that is his idea too and that Glasgow could be the next stop.

— Ann Treneman

## After 500 years, MPs vote down foxhunting

A huge Commons majority of 260 for the Bill to ban foxhunting was hailed last night by the MP who is sponsoring it as "a moral mandate" to get rid of the sport in Britain. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says Tony Blair privately gave MPs a clear signal there will be a change in the law before the next election.

The centuries-old tradition of foxhunting was facing extinction last night after the Commons voted by 411 to 151 to ban hunting with dogs. Foxhunting, which dates back 500 years but which began in its familiar form in the early 1800s, is unpopular among voters but has strong support in pockets of the country, and the battle is not yet over. With the opposing camps digging in for a bloody parliamentary struggle, it could require the reform of another, even older, institution, the House of Lords, to make foxhunting illegal.

The MPs' vote sets the House of Commons on a collision course with the House of Lords, where hundreds of Tory backwoodsmen and hereditary peers are expected to come to

the aid of the hunting lobby to kill the Bill, promoted by the Labour backbencher Michael Foster, before it reaches the statute book.

Tony Blair was hundreds of miles away visiting British troops in Bosnia but he issued Labour MPs with a private note, emphasising his support for the Bill, and promising that it would be kept "open to review for the future" — a clear signal that the Government may not, after all, let it die. The Prime Minister has been under intense pressure from friends and allies on both sides of the argument; and earlier briefing had suggested the Bill would get little Government help.

Now, though, ministerial sources confirm the options include using the Parliament Act to enforce the will of the Commons on the Lords after a delay of a year. A Cabinet member confirmed that another option would be to allow a backbench amendment to a future Home Office Bill on criminal justice to put a ban on foxhunting on to the statute book.

The Home Office minister, George Howarth, who wound up the five-hour debate, warned the Lords that if they sought to frustrate the will of the Commons they would be hastening the end of the voting rights for the hereditary peers, which the Government is pledged to abolish. "If the House of Lords wish-

es to take the House of Commons on over this issue, let them do so," said Mr Howarth.

The Government may have to take away the voting rights of the hereditary peers before pushing through a Bill which included a ban on foxhunting.

The Government resisted demands to give the Bill time to ensure that it becomes law, but the Prime Minister told his backbench MPs: "I very much hope that opponents of the Bill would respect the will of the House and not seek to frustrate its passage by means of procedural delays."

"It is those in this House and in the Lords who seek to sabotage the Bill, not this Government, who will be preventing this private member's Bill reaching the statute book. We are keeping this matter open to review for the future."

Mr Blair is anxious to avoid being accused of breaking election promises over banning foxhunting, and Mr Foster was careful to stress that the Prime Minister had fulfilled the manifesto commitment to allow a free vote with yesterday's debate.

The noisy and impassioned debate over the Bill crossed party lines. The highlight came when Labour MPs cheered and applauded a sparkling speech by Ann Widdecombe, the former Tory prisons minister, and a supporter of the Bill.

Given a hero's welcome by

joyful supporters outside the Commons, some of whom were weeping with joy, Mr Foster said: "The size of the vote really indicates that this is going to become law."

"They will try (to sabotage it) but we have the moral mandate. The world now knows that in this country, the days of hunting are doomed."

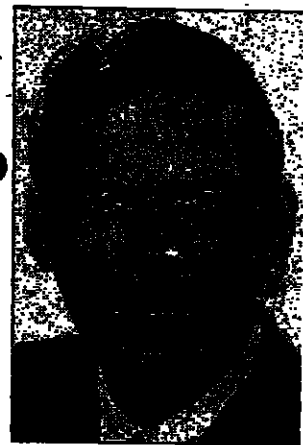
Tony Banks, the sports minister and the most outspoken supporter of the ban on foxhunting in the Government, told *The Independent*: "My feeling is that we will see the end of foxhunting during the course of this Parliament."

"This vote today and the expressions of support throughout the country will assist us in making sure that happens. I can well understand why on this occasion no guarantees (of Government time) can be given but this will give a clear steer to the Government this is something we have to do."

The Union of Country Sports Workers and Country-side Alliance, which had organised a vigil and meeting at the Queen Elizabeth conference centre, had prepared the 600 people attending for a defeat. Many were expecting a greater majority.

This was stressed by Labour peer Baroness Mallalieu, who told them: "It is the bad news we have been waiting for but it is not a bigger majority than we've had before."

### Why Does Your Memory Fail You?



A WORLD-FAMOUS memory expert, who has trained industrialists, trades unionists, businessmen, professional men, salesmen, housewives and students to improve their memories, once said:

"Many people are embarrassed by a poor memory, and find difficulty in concentrating; whilst others realise that they lose business, academic and social opportunities not only because they cannot remember accurately everything they see, hear or read, but also because they cannot think or express their thoughts clearly, logically and concisely. Some seek advice, but many do not, mainly because they believe their memories cannot be improved."

#### Simple Technique

And yet, he went on to explain, he has devised a simple technique which can improve even the poorest memory. What's more, it can even work like magic to give you added poise, self-confidence and greater personal effectiveness. Everyone owes it to himself to find out more about this method.

#### Rapid Results

According to this remarkable man, anyone — regardless of his present skill — could, in just 20 minutes a day, improve his memory and concentration to a remarkable degree. For example, you need never for-

Forget names, faces? get another appointment — ever! You could learn names, faces, facts, figures and foreign languages faster than you ever thought possible. You may be able to imprint whole books on your memory after a single reading. You could be more successful in your studies and examinations. At parties and dinner you may never again be at a loss for appropriate words or entertaining stories. In fact you could even be more poised and self-confident in everything you say and do.

#### Free

To acquaint all readers of *The Independent* with the easy-to-follow rules for developing skill in remembering, we, the publishers, have printed full details of this interesting self-training method in a fascinating book, "Adventures in Memory", sent free on request. No obligation. No salesman will call. Just fill in and return the coupon on Page 8 (you don't even need to stamp your envelope), or write to: Memory and Concentration Studies (Dept. IDM67), FREEPOST 198 Manchester, M60 3DL.



48 WEATHER Time Off, page 2  
TELEVISION The Eye  
CROSSWORDS Time Off, pages 16 and 26  
Web address: <http://www.independent.co.uk>

## COLUMN ONE

### Game's up as toy firm targets bigger boys

The Fat Controller had a middle-aged spread. Thomas was most likely tanked up on lager, and the Flying Scotsman was probably speeding home to play with his train set.

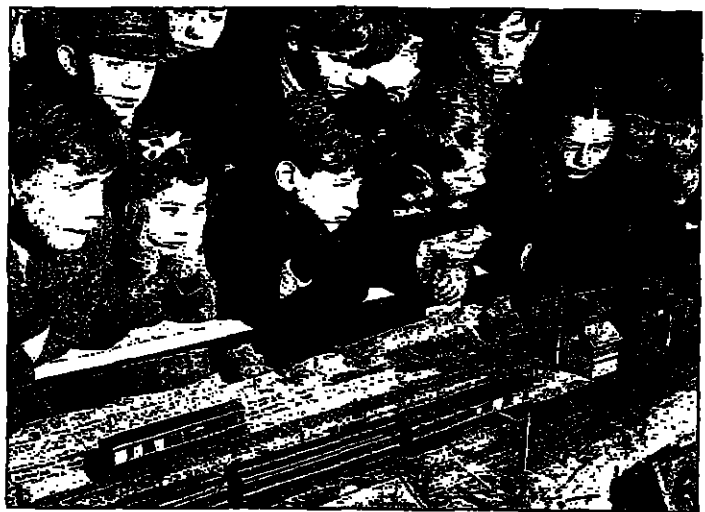
We had always suspected that toys were not for the boys, but yesterday Hornby Railways confirmed it: For years they have been making train sets not for little lads, but for their fathers.

The admission, which will make many a doting dad blush, was made by the company yesterday when it also admitted targeting Scalextric at men and not their sons.

Announcing its half-yearly results, the company said its marketing strategy now involved aiming for serious enthusiasts with serious money - mature adults. They are the ones who can fork out on lengthy, complicated stretches of track, decorative stations and elaborate landscaping.

While the image of the toy railway (below) is still one of wide-eyed youngsters in shorts and 1950s haircuts, the reality is quite different. The boys might get a look-in for five minutes, but they soon get elbowed out of the way by dad.

Peter Newey, the company chairman, said most railway sets are no longer sold through toy shops but through model stores where adult modellers and collectors congregate.



"How do you define a toy?" he asked. "In the main they are bought by mature men, not by children. They go to collectors or enthusiasts who put them into model layouts."

"Most of our sets are bought by men for their sons in anticipation of playing with them themselves. I am sure."

The models have changed as much as the marketing strategy. Nostalgic 14-year-old schoolboys can still buy the *Flying Scotsman*, but the most popular train is the Inter-City 125. And, in deference to privatisation, it now comes in the livery of Virgin and GNER.

Your Thatcherite realist is able to buy a gleaming model of the Euston, although it is not clear whether the company makes slow stretches of track for the imaginary British side and faster rails for the French section.

For serious anoraks, privatisation junkies or plain old sad purists, there are also models of suburban Networker carriages done out in the livery of local stretches like the Chiltern Line.

Scalextric, too, is being aimed at the more serious collector of longer, more complicated sections of track. The models are produced with meticulous attention to detail - in all but one respect. The company would never carry tobacco advertising on its Formula One cars, not even for a £1m run from Bernie Ecclestone.

"Absolutely no way," said marketing manager Simon Kohler. "We stopped that round about 1972 with the JPS [John Player Special] car. Last season, there were some cars carrying very subtle advertising, like an R with question mark for Rothmans. We wouldn't even do that. It's much too far the mark."

It is the trains, however, that still cause the hearts of many a middle-aged man to miss a beat. And they are realistic in more ways than one: they even reflect the financial ups and downs of life in the public transport private sector. Hornby's pre-tax profits fell from £1.1m a year ago to 973,000 in the half year to 30 September. Sales were down from £13.1m to £11.1m.

— Steve Boggan  
Business, page 26

## PEOPLE



Anna Friel and Ewan McGregor, who will play Lisa and Nick Leeson in the forthcoming film

### 'Trainspotting' star gets set to break the bank

*Rogue Trader*, the £8m feature film based on the rise and fall of futures trader Nick Leeson, has begun filming with *Trainspotting* star Ewan McGregor playing the man who brought down the world's oldest merchant bank.

The film, which will open early in 1999, is based on Leeson's best-selling autobiography of the same name. McGregor stars opposite Anna Friel as his wife Lisa in the movie charting his loss of £850m, which triggered the collapse of Barings Bank, his flight from justice and his six-year jail sentence.

The stars are said to have adopted "Essex-style" accents for their roles, and Friel has substituted her trademark long brunette hair for Lisa Leeson's short blonde bob.

The real-life couple wed in Kent but producers used Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park, south-west London, for the scene in which the couple marry, which was shot this week.

Filming moved to Gatwick airport yesterday and stays in and around London until Christmas, when it moves to Malaysia and Singapore, where Leeson met his downfall.

Leeson, 29, ran up enormous trading losses at Barings Bank in Singapore, and finally fled. But he was arrested, returned to Singapore, and imprisoned.

Producer Paul Raphael said: "It is rollercoaster of a film about a streetwise guy who just got way out of his depth. Anyone can imagine themselves as Nick Leeson, and it contains classic dramatic elements," he said.

"Ewan is perfect for this part - it's the sort of role Gary Oldman could have played 10 years ago. He is a contemporary lad. Anna is going to be a huge star, she is tremendous."

Lisa and Nick Leeson married in 1992, but by February 1995 their relationship was plunged into disaster. Recent reports have suggested that Lisa Leeson, 29, no longer visits her husband regularly.

"Our story is romantic in many ways. If things had gone a little differently for Nick and Lisa they might be very happy and very rich by now," Mr Raphael said.

The rogue trader's decision to publish his autobiography caused concern that it would glamorise his crime. The possibility that the film might do the same did not appear to worry the producer. He expressed hope yesterday that a shorter sentence might ensure his presence at the opening.

"I hope we can get Nick along to the premiere - it would be wonderful," Mr Raphael said.

— Jojo Moyes

### Dying ex-serviceman denied right to sue MoD

An ex-serviceman suffering incurable lung cancer contracted after being exposed to asbestos dust as a Royal Navy engineer cannot claim compensation, three judges of the Appeal judges ruled yesterday.

Lawyers acting for Ronald Quinn had argued that civilian employees of the Ministry of Defence are able to sue for damages and it was unjust that military personnel cannot. But Lord Justice Swinton Thomas said he "could see no reason" to change regulations barring servicemen from claiming against the Ministry of Defence for personal injury.

Mr Quinn, 65, of Holbeck, Leeds, who served from 1949 to 1956, is the first ex-serviceman to challenge whether the immunity clause of the Crown Proceedings Act applies to serving members of the forces who were exposed to asbestos dust. During his time with the Navy, he carried out service work on ships' boilers, stripping or removing lagging which contained asbestos. He was forced to retire from work in 1979 and in 1982 was diagnosed as having malignant mesothelioma. He is now seriously ill.

The Crown Proceedings Act, covering damages actions against the Crown, excludes members of the armed forces from claiming if it resulted from the condition of the "land, premises, ship, aircraft or vehicles" supplied by the MoD. The appeal judges ruled that Mr Quinn suffered his injury "in consequence of the nature or condition of the ship" and therefore his action fails. They also threw out an alternative argument that there was an employment contract between Mr Quinn and the MoD, which had acted negligently.

Lawyers for Mr Quinn are to petition the House of Lords in an attempt to challenge the judgment.

### Countess Spencer hits back at divorce case malice claims

Countess Spencer hit out yesterday at claims that her divorce case against her husband was based on malice.

She issued a statement through her solicitors which described as "untrue" claims made by David Horton-Fawkes, Earl Spencer's business manager, that she was using the divorce hearing to make malicious allegations and to make money.

Mr Horton-Fawkes made his statement outside the High Court in Cape Town on Thursday. He said Lady Spencer "has been persuaded or advised to use this public forum and the protection of open court to make malicious and untrue allegations against Charles [the earl] for financial gain".

But in her statement, the countess said: "I simply wish to state in response to what is said by - or perhaps through - Mr Horton-Fawkes that it is in material respects quite untrue."

"My husband chose to sue me in South Africa for divorce and for

the custody of our four small children in South Africa, without warning, when we had been involved in negotiations through our English solicitors for many months, with a clear view to a divorce in England."

"My struggle before the Cape Town court is to have my future, and that of my children, determined by the law of the land where we were born and to which we shall return."

Earlier, one of the women with whom Lord Spencer is alleged to have had an affair leapt to the defence of the countess.

Sally Ann Lasson said of Mr Horton-Fawkes's attack: "Well, it's his [Lord Spencer's] little sidekick, in his anemic lackey way, trying to justify the fact that this man who has over £100m won't write a little, tiny cheque to his wife."

"And then blaming the wife for going to court to get publicity, which is preposterous."

— Steve Boggan

## UPDATE

### HEALTH

#### Sex habits unchanged by fear of Aids

Four out of five sexually active adults in Britain say they worry about Aids to some degree - but less than one in five always practises safer sex, according to a survey.

Younger adults take the lead in safer sex while the over-40s mostly ignore the risks, the survey commissioned to mark World Aids Day on 1 December by Durex, the condom manufacturers, found.

Debbie Zadah, Durex brand manager, said: "People do seem to have heard the safer sex message but a very large proportion of them are not following any of the advice. Aids is a worldwide epidemic - no one can be really sure of a new partner's sexual history, and to have unprotected sex is an unnecessary risk to sexual health."

The survey found that more than nine out of ten people knew that HIV is a sexually transmitted infection but only a third were aware that chlamydia, which can lead to pelvic infection and infertility, is transmitted in the same way.

— Jeremy Laurence, Health Editor

### ROYAL MAIL

#### Posting the seasonal message

Christmas cards travelling across the globe should be in the post by 6 December, the Royal Mail said yesterday.

Cards and letters being sent to addresses within Europe should be posted by 13 December to arrive before Christmas Day. Inland second-class



letters and cards should be sent by 18 December. For first-class mail the last posting date to be sure of pre-Christmas delivery in the UK is 21 December. The Royal Mail is expecting to handle more than two billion cards by 25 December. "The message, as always, is to post early and please remember to use the full address," said Royal Mail spokesman Mike Hilder.

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### Mental hospitals provision slashed

The number of available beds in mental illness wards in National Health Service hospitals has dropped by almost 50,000 since 1980, it was revealed yesterday.

The average daily number of beds available to treat the mentally ill has dropped from 87,396 to the 1996-97 figure of 37,624. The figures were revealed in a written answer to Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, from Paul Boateng, health minister, with responsibility for mental health. The huge drop stems from the former government's policy of treating the mentally ill in the community, rather than in institutions.

— Jojo Moyes

### SOCIETY

#### Grandparents sold short at Christmas

Grandparents get a rough deal when it comes to Christmas presents, according to figures published yesterday.

The average grandmother receives presents worth £20.66 from members of the family while granddad does even worse with an average of just £18.24. Compared to the average of £51 spent on other members of the family, older relatives are definitely doing the giving rather than the taking in the season of goodwill.

The survey, by Goldfish, the credit card company, showed that children under 12 were in for the best time at Christmas. On average, they receive £75 worth of presents from each of their parents.

### CONTENTS

Arts news	5	Saturday story	21
Health news	7	Leader, letters	22
The law	9	Comment	23
Shopping	10	Obituaries	24
Mid-East	12	Business	25-27
Hunting debate	14, 15	Big picture	28
World news	16	Sport	Time Off, 16-28
Asylum	17	Crossword	Time Off, 14
Nazi gold	19	Weather	Time Off, 2
Arts	20	TV & Radio	The Eye

### TOURIST RATES

Australia (dollars)	2.38	Italy (lira)	2,822
Austria (schillings)	20.15	Japan (yen)	21.46
Belgium (francs)	59.19	Malta (lira)	0.63
Canada (\$)	2.32	Netherlands (guilders)	3.23
Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.77
Denmark (kroner)	10.98	Portugal (escudos)	29.05
France (francs)	9.60	Spain (pesetas)	24.91
Germany (marks)	2.87	Sweden (kroner)	12.70
Greece (drachmel)	457.95	Switzerland (francs)	2.33
Hong Kong (\$)	12.56	Turkey (lira)	36,402
Ireland (punts)	1.09	USA (\$)	1.63

Source: Thomson Guide  
Rates for independent travellers only

### ZITS



by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

## How to wash hard floors at 150 mph.

The new VAX Sahara is a revolution in hard floor cleaning. It washes and dries hard floors in one simple action.

Using VAX's unique Hydrodry technology™ the Sahara works by scrubbing the floor using a continuous supply of clean solution and sucking the dirty solution back into the machine at an incredible 150mph.

Leaving the floor spotlessly clean and instantly dry. For full details and names of our local stockists, phone our VAX Careline free on the number below.

- Washes and dries instantly
- Safe and hygienic
- Quick and easy to use
- Doubles as a vacuum cleaner

☎ 0500 112 113



Available from all leading electrical retailers





## Farce as second Luxor body goes missing

Attempts to bring home the bodies of victims of an Egyptian tragedy descended into farce yesterday, with the revelation that a second body from a family of victims had disappeared. Esther Leach and Jojo Moyes report on the agony facing relatives.

The Foreign Office was yesterday urgently attempting to stop further funerals of the victims of the Luxor massacre, as a coroner admitted he had "no idea" what had happened to the body of Karina Turner.

A body flown back to Halifax, West Yorkshire, was believed to have been that of the 24-year-old air stewardess. But James Turnbull, the assistant deputy coroner for West Yorkshire, said yesterday that dental records proved the body was not Ms Turner's. He said it was possible that her body might already have been buried or cremated.

It followed a similar mix-up earlier this week, when it emerged that the body identified as that of Ms Turner's mother, Mrs Joan Turner, was in fact that of a Swiss citizen. Her body has been located in Zurich. Yesterday Mr Turnbull described the situation as "total chaos" and said relatives were suffering "indescribable distress".

"I find it very hard to imagine the feelings of the Turner family... I can't express deeply enough my concern and sympathy for them. I will move heaven and earth to get the body of Joan Turner back to this country and to locate that of Karina Turner." He added that he had known nothing like it in his 30-year service as a coroner.

Very urgent attempts are being made by the Foreign Office to prevent funerals of younger women until the body of Karina Turner is located. Ms Turner, her mother and her five-year-old daughter Shaunnah were all killed last week when militant Islamic gunmen opened fire on tourists visiting ancient monuments at Luxor. Mr Turnbull said there was no doubt about the identification of the body of Shaunnah Turner.

He added he had no idea of the identification of the two bodies now under his care but that he would be investigating. The funeral of all three members of the Turner family was to have taken place last Thursday at St Bartholomew's Church near their home in Ripponden, west Yorkshire. Mr Turnbull said because of the international nature of the investigations, it could be weeks before relatives of the Turner family could lay their loved ones to rest. The Foreign Office said its first step would be to establish the whereabouts of the body of Karina Turner, and added that the Swiss authorities had confirmed that the body of Joan Turner would be returned as soon as possible.



Legal joint: the Dutch system of being allowed to use cannabis in 'coffee shops' has been called into question

Photograph: Hadj Jobard / Rex Features

## Ecstasy threatens Dutch drugs strategy

For the past twenty years people have been able to eat, drink or smoke cannabis in 'coffee shops' in the Netherlands. But, as Jason Bennett discovered, a system designed to keep hard and soft drug users apart is under threat from an ecstasy epidemic. The solution may be to decriminalise possession of ecstasy.

The selection on offer was impressive. Dozens of tiny plastic bags containing such mind-blowing substances as Jamaica Gold, Zero Zero and Purple Haze were hung in neat rows like a supermarket spice rack. Below in plastic strawberry containers, for your convenience, were ready-rolled joints of cannabis and powerful "skunk weed". The label on the wooden drugs cabinet boasted "official junk dealer". The audience was equally impressive. Among the customers bathed in the sweet smell of dope was a senior police officer, a government prosecutor, and council official wearing dark suits and fixed smiles.

drugs bar, was the Dutch government's attempt at clarifying their much-maligned drugs policy. By British standards the Dutch not only think the unthinkable, they actually carry it out. More unusually they are honest enough to admit their failures and compromises. For many years their system of licensed "coffee bars" where punters can buy and use very small amounts of cannabis without fear of police harassment has kept soft drug consumers away from dealers of hard narcotics. But the rise in popularity of ecstasy with tens of thousands of Dutch youths, using the dance drug and new "eco-substances" such as magic mushrooms has undermined that policy and called into question the entire coffee shop system.

In a further twist a recent police clampdown against ecstasy producers has resulted in traffickers mixing the drug with other substances, including amphetamines (Speed) which unlike ecstasy is addictive. The Dutch have long prided themselves on their progressive approach to drugs. They argue that although they have a more liberal attitude to illegal substances the rate of cannabis use in the Netherlands is low compared to other European countries, particularly Britain. They also have a relatively low level of HIV sufferers, drug deaths, and heroin addicts who are becoming increasingly old - the average age is now 36 - because there are so few new young recruits.

But the popularity of Ecstasy among the country's 15 million population is blurring the differences between hard and soft drug users. Up to 500,000 people in the Netherlands are estimated to have taken Ecstasy, although only six are believed to have died from the side effects. The Netherlands is the centre for ecstasy production in Europe with Britain being one of its major clients. New laws have been introduced which enable the authorities to convict drug manufacturers caught with just the ingredients rather than the finished product. But the government admits it is struggling to prevent young people using the drug and therefore risking contact with other substances such as cocaine, speed and heroin. New "eco drug" shops have also started to spring up selling natural highs such as mushrooms and vitamins.

Bob Keizer, head of the Department of Addiction Care at the Dutch Ministry of Health yesterday questioned whether the government could continue to maintain "the old-fashioned approach of separating the two (soft and hard drug) markets." He added: "We realise we can't go on forever with this policy if we do not do anything about ecstasy." Jaap Fransman, director of the Division of Youth and Mental Health Care in Amsterdam is equally pessimistic, describing the availability of ecstasy as an "epidemic". Health officials are concerned at the variety of substances being cut into ecstasy tablets to bulk them out.

In an attempt to deal with this problem the Dutch have come up with a typically schizophrenic policy. While classifying ecstasy as a Class A hard drug, they have allowed local authorities to licence large house parties in which ecstasy is taken. While there is someone to frisk people going into the party - this is supposed to weed out any dealers with large numbers of tablets - it is easy to smuggle in drugs. Anyone caught will have their tablets confiscated. Prosecution usually only takes place where significant amounts are found. Once inside, experts are on hand to provide instant testing of the Ecstasy and advice on what the tablet contains in an attempt to spot dangerous concoctions. Once diagnosed the tablet is returned to its owner. The Dutch authorities are now having to rethink their policy on ecstasy and are considering whether, like cannabis, it should be decriminalised in small quantities.

### The coffee-shop highs for a low country

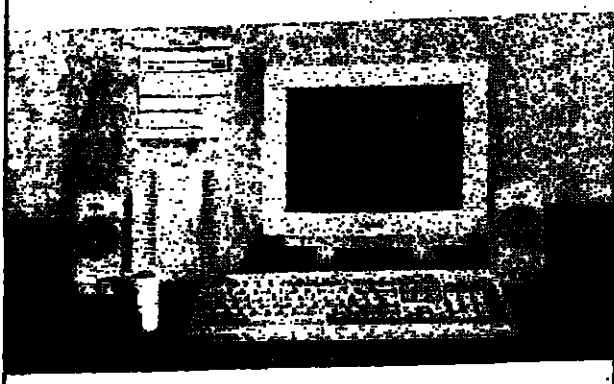
THERE are about 1,200 so-called coffee shops in the Netherlands where customers are able openly to buy cannabis resin - hashish - or the dried hemp "weed". Technically it is illegal to buy or sell any cannabis, but Dutch authorities turn a blind eye to anyone using small quantities of the drug in licensed coffee shops providing they obey certain rules. Only people aged 18 or above can go into the premises and buy cannabis. They can only purchase five grams a day - enough for about 15 cannabis cigarettes - which cost as little as about £3.50. The drug should be consumed, either smoked

with tobacco, dissolved in coffee or eaten baked in a cake, on the premises, although this is often ignored and there is nothing to stop people going to several shops in a single day. Drug-users are offered a wide range of cannabis products from around the world including ready-made joints and the super-strong Dutch weed called skunk. Prices are listed on a menu board. Anyone caught on the street with a small amount of cannabis will not be prosecuted. The shop owners must only keep 500 grams on the premises and are not allowed to advertise. Following complaints about anti-social behaviour and fears that

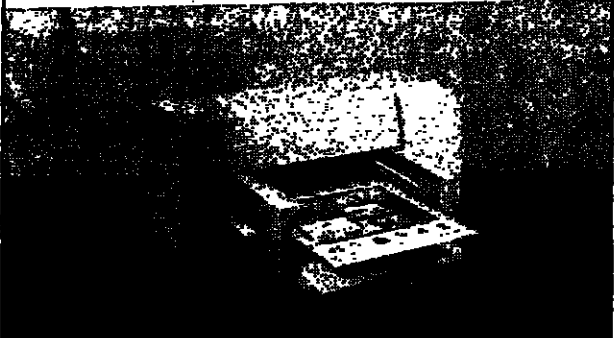
they were becoming too numerous, the number of shops which are based in bars and cafes have been reduced by about 15 per cent since 1995 with about 350 in Amsterdam. The quantity that individuals can buy was also reduced from 30 grams. It is illegal for owners to buy cannabis from traffickers, however this has also been in effect decriminalised, with the police usually ignoring sales from professional dealers, amateurs who have grown it at home, and backpackers. The coffee shop owners have their own union and must decide by 2000 whether to sell either alcohol or drugs but not both.

Meanwhile back at the Creamer coffee shop the owner, Mr Smit, believes the rest of the world is missing out on the Dutch experience. He explains: "Bill Clinton was about 500 metres from here the other day when he visited the Royal Palace. People were in here smoking joints having a good time." Unlike the American President, they did inhale.

**Buying a PC from Dell won't just save you trailing round the shops.**



**It'll also save you enough to buy a printer.**



Read the specification of the Dell Dimension™ XPS D266 and we're sure you'll agree that by cutting out the middleman and buying direct from the world's largest direct PC manufacturer\* serious savings can be made on a serious home system. What's more, having saved you so much money - and the hassle of fighting your way round the shops, we'll even sell you an HP Deskjet 690c printer to go with your new system. So call us now.

#### DELL DIMENSION™ XPS D266 MT

- INTEL PENTIUM® II PROCESSOR 266MHZ
- INTEL 440LX AGPSET
- 64MB SDRAM
- 512KB INTERNAL CACHE
- 6.4GB ATA-33 HARD DRIVE
- STR VELOCITY NVIDIA AGP GRAPHICS CARD WITH 4MB SGRAM VIDEO MEMORY
- HIGH PERFORMANCE TCO 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (15.65" VIEWABLE AREA, TRINITRON® CRT)
- 3 PC, 1 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED AND 1 AGP EXPANSION SLOTS
- 12/24X CD-ROM DRIVE
- AWE 64 SOUND CARD AND ALTEC LANSING ACS290 SPEAKERS
- 10MBEGA ZIP DRIVE WITH 3x100MB CARTRIDGES
- MINI TOWER CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95
- MICROSOFT OFFICE SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

**£1,590 (£1,903.50)**

INC. DELIVERY & VAT

#### DELL DIMENSION™ XPS M233c

- INTEL PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY 233MHZ
- INTEL 430VX PCSET
- 32MB SDRAM
- 512KB PIPELINE BURST CACHE
- 4.3GB ATA-33 HARD DRIVE
- INTEGRATED S3 VIRGE DX VIDEO WITH 2MB EDO VIDEO MEMORY
- 17" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (15.9" VIEWABLE AREA)
- 3 PC, 2 ISA, 1 PCI/ISA SHARED EXPANSION SLOTS
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND CARD AND ALTEC LANSING ACS290 SPEAKERS
- MID SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- WINDOWS 95
- MICROSOFT OFFICE SMALL BUSINESS EDITION

**£1,159 (£1,397.08)**

INC. DELIVERY & VAT

GET ONLINE TO THE BEST DEALS  
0870 123 4567  
To order online 24 hours: [www.dell.com/uk](http://www.dell.com/uk)

**DELL**

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks and Office 97 is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft is a registered trademark. Delivery at £10 (VAT 2.25 and 0.07) per game. Prices are available subject to stock. Full details available on request. Prices correct at date of publication. The photograph product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to ex-manufacturer prices only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95, Dell mouse and keyboard included. Microsoft Office Small Business Edition is supplied on CD to licensed business for Windows 95 PCs. Dell Products c/o Midlands House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 1UD. Offer available for a limited period only.





# 5/ARTS NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997

## National in clean sweep of awards

Former National Theatre director Sir Richard Eyre won two accolades and saw his company carry off the main prizes at yesterday's Evening Standard Drama Awards. David Lister, Arts News Editor, watched another moment of triumph for Sir Richard.

It was the biggest clean sweep in the 42-year history of the event.

Sir Richard Eyre was presented with a special award by actor Paul Scofield for the decade of his directorship, 1988-1997, and was also named best director for his productions of *King Lear* and *The Invention of Love* at an awards ceremony in which the National featured strongly.

Ian Holm was named best actor for his National Theatre *King Lear*, and Tom Stoppard collected the best play trophy for *The Invention of Love*.

Patrick Marber took the best comedy award for *Closer* - another NT production - and the award for best musical went to *Lady in the Dark* by Kurt Weill, Ira Gershwin and Moss Hart, which was staged at the National.

A highlight of the awards ceremony came when Dame Maggie Smith presented the best actress award Eileen Atkins for her performance in *A Delicate Balance* at the Haymarket Theatre, where she co-stars with Dame Maggie. Ridiculing a report that the two of them were not speaking, Dame Maggie recalled how they had known each other since their youth, and had de-

liberately sought a play to act in together. Such rumours were, she suggested, a hazard for actresses. "No one ever says, 'oh have you heard Othello's not getting on with Iago,'" she observed.

While the awards ceremony had its usual upbeat atmosphere, much of the talk among the actors and actresses attending was about the current Equity strike in which many of them are refusing to do voice overs and other commercials for television following a decision by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising to reduce drastically repeat fees, cutting substantial earnings for many performers.

The award for most promising playwright went to Conor McPherson for *The Weir*, staged by the Royal Court.

Jonathan Harmsworth, son of Lord Rothermere, chairman of *The Daily Mail* and General Trust, publishers of the *Evening Standard*, introduced The Patricia Rothermere Award, created by Lord Rothermere in memory of his first wife.

It is a two-part award. The first part went to Dame Judi Dench in recognition of her services to theatre. The second, a scholarship allowing a drama student to take his or her place at drama school when they had no other funding, was won by 23-year-old Mark Rice-Oxley from Liverpool.

Ned Sherrin hosted the ceremony at The Savoy Hotel, central London.

Sir Richard Eyre's *King Lear* is to be filmed for BBC2's *Performance* programme. The three-week shoot, with Ian Holm as *King Lear* and most of the Royal National Theatre production cast unchanged, starts on Monday. It will be screened next year.

## How a slice of Hollywood's feelgood factor helps cure the soul



Reel benefit: Bernie Wooster, a psychotherapist, says *The Wizard Of Oz* can help children: "It is a wonderful film because it shows that by being open and friendly to yourself and others, life can be happier"

*The Wizard of Oz* is therapeutic for children; Rebecca is prescribed for ailing marriages. Pretty Woman can help a girl with boyfriend problems. David Lister talks to Britain's first film therapist.

MGM, one of the world's biggest and best-known film studios, has asked a Hertfordshire therapist to endorse its classic children's film *The Wizard Of Oz*.

When the studio releases the film, digitally remastered on video this Christmas, it will come complete with a bill of health from the psychotherapist Bernie Wooster. MGM announced yesterday that Mr Wooster thinks *The Wizard Of Oz* "makes excellent viewing for responsible parents who are interested in the healthy emotional development of their children".

It is the first time a studio has commissioned a psychotherapist, Britain's only film therapist, to endorse a film.

The report Mr Wooster sent to MGM, entitled "The Wizard Of Oz: As Seen From A Therapeutic Perspective", breaks down the Judy Garland film scene by scene and concludes that the cast is bursting with role models for children.

In Mr Wooster's words, "The Wizard Of Oz is a wonderful film because it shows that by being open and friendly to yourself and others, life can be happier... They [the characters] are helpful role models for identifying those different parts of ourselves which are similar to these characters, ie woolly headed and unintelligent (Scarecrow), mechanical and going through the motions (Tin Man) and tense and frightened (Lion). It also portrays love and sharing in a joint quest."

At his clinic in Borehamwood near the old film studios at Elstree, Mr Wooster, 57, who

is registered with the UK Council of Therapists, described yesterday how his love of films and use of them in treating depression and other problems, had changed his patients' lives.

"This is not a gimmick," he said. "I'm sure everyone can think of a film that has moved them in some way. It's the sense of why and where it has moved you which is the springboard from where we start."

"For example, I was working with someone who wanted commitment from her boyfriend and couldn't get it, and she wasn't going to short-change herself. I got her to see the film *Pretty Woman* where Julia Roberts says: 'I want the full commitment, I want the fairy tale.' She saw it over and over again."

"Then there was a businessman who came to me quite depressed. He was a workaholic, but every time he achieved a project it lost its original promise. It dated from his parents pushing him when he was young. I told him to see *The Color Purple*, the scene where Whoopi Goldberg is acknowledged publicly for who she was, a human being. That kind of acknowledgment was what he needed. He went to see it eight times and was convulsed with sobs. His energies were refocused. It changed his life."

Films that Mr Wooster particularly recommends for their therapeutic values include: *It's A Wonderful Life* with James Stewart, "brilliant for self-esteem"; *Rebecca*, "I recommend couples in second marriages who are having problems with one person feeling haunted by the shadow of a previous partner, to watch it together. It's a very good aid to communication".

Mr Wooster is now trying to persuade MGM to set up a "social concern division", devoted to putting out films that will help people. He said: "My mission is to get the whole perspective of viewing films and videos in a healing way."

"The tax benefits of many expertly managed PEPs have always come at a high price. Until now."

With our new Personal Equity Plan (PEP), you can invest in an expertly managed portfolio of the best-known companies (such as Rolls Royce and Tesco), without paying high charges. There are no initial withdrawal charges to pay, so you could save as much as £300\* on a £5,000 single investment. And if you prefer to invest a smaller amount on a regular basis, you can - from as little as £25 per month. Call us now on the number below for further details.

\*Based on a £5,000 lump sum investment in a PEP charging 5% initial fee.

Midland Bank Member HSBC Group

MIDLAND direct

CALL FREE  
0800 299 299

Midland Bank plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. We only sell our own life assurance, pension, and unit trusts. As with any investment relating to stocks and shares, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and they may fall below the amount originally invested. Tax legislation and practice could change in the future and the tax treatment of PEPs will change in 1999. Calls may be monitored or recorded for quality purposes.

FREE SPEECH

SMARTSUITE 97

123<sup>7</sup>

spreadsheet

WORD PRO

word processor

APPROACH

database

FREELANCE GRAPHICS

presentation graphics

ORGANIZER

time management

SCREENCAM

multimedia tool

Personal Computer World

Software of the Year 1997

Talk about a good offer. For a limited period, buy Lotus SmartSuite 97 for £159\* and IBM's Simply Speaking (mp £48) comes free. Lotus SmartSuite 97 has ready-made templates and in-built Internet access. And now it's safer than ever, thanks to IBM AntiVirus that we're also offering for free as part of this promotion.

When you're running SmartSuite 97 with Simply Speaking, your voice appears as words on the screen. So producing reports and presentations, even publishing onto the Internet, with Lotus SmartSuite 97, becomes as natural as talking itself.

To order, call us on 0800 223 222, or pop in for a chat with your local dealer or visit our website at [www.lotus.com/uk](http://www.lotus.com/uk)

Lotus  
Working Together

LOTUS SMARTSUITE 97 AND IBM SIMPLY SPEAKING £159. NOW WITH IBM ANTIVIRUS FREE.



This voucher entitles you to IBM AntiVirus FREE (rrp £36.25) when you buy the boxed Lotus SmartSuite 97/IBM Simply Speaking set.

How to claim: 1. This voucher can only be used as complete payment for AntiVirus when accompanied by proof of purchase of the boxed set of Lotus SmartSuite 97 and IBM Simply Speaking (which will be returned to you with your copy of AntiVirus) and the completed original registration cards from both IBM and Lotus. 2. In-pack registration cards: a) Lotus SmartSuite 97 and b) IBM VoiceType Simply Speaking. In order to qualify for the offer, both cards must be filled in and sent off to the address below in point 3 - please ignore the other addresses on the cards. 3. In order to get your free copy of AntiVirus send this voucher along with your proof of purchase and the completed original registration cards to: AntiVirus Offer, Product Fulfillment Programme, Lotus Development, Unit 12, Airways Industrial Estate, Cloughan, Dublin 15, Ireland. 4. Allow 28 days for delivery. Cash redemption value: £0.01.



© 1997 Lotus Development Corporation. All rights reserved. Lotus SmartSuite 97 and IBM VoiceType Simply Speaking are trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. IBM and the IBM logo are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. All trademarks acknowledged. Prices subject to change without notice.

Lotus SmartSuite 97/IBM Simply Speaking £159. Lotus SmartSuite 97/IBM Simply Speaking £159. Lotus SmartSuite 97/IBM Simply Speaking £159.

IBM AntiVirus £36.25. IBM AntiVirus £36.25. IBM AntiVirus £36.25.



# PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

LOW PRICES EVERYDAY  
3000 COMPUTER PRODUCTS

BUSINESS CENTRE

PC WORLD  
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

# NO.1 CHOICE FOR SOFTWARE



## GAMES SOFTWARE

### ALL THE LATEST RELEASES



**TOMB RAIDER II**  
Starting the unstoppable Lara Croft, this is the much anticipated sequel to the best-selling original, complete with new moves, enemies, weapons and puzzles.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£29.99**



**FIFA 98 - ROAD TO THE WORLD CUP**  
Have you got what it takes to emulate Glenn Hoddle or Craig Brown and qualify your team for World Cup 98 in France? Includes commentary from Des Lynam, John Motson and Andy Gray.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£29.99**



**ACTUA SOCCER 2**  
Choose your team to play against the cream of European football in your own customised tournaments, leagues and cup formats.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£29.99**



**F1 RACING**  
Get ready to enjoy the ultimate F1 racing experience with the only game to feature real drivers, cars and circuits from the Grand Prix season.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£29.99**



**STAR WARS MONOPOLY**  
Select from one of 8 Star Wars characters to represent you in your epic struggle to monopolise the galaxy. Experience your favourite movie scenes and build your galactic property empire.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£29.99**



**MEN IN BLACK**  
Protect the earth from the scum of the universe. Choose to be any of the film's leading characters in this exciting third person action adventure.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£29.99**



**BLADE RUNNER**  
The cult sci-fi movie arrives on PC at last! You are McCoy, a Blade Runner similar to Deckard, searching for clues to determine which of your suspects are Replicants in this innovative interactive action adventure game.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£34.99**



**RIVEN**  
The much anticipated sequel to the all-time best selling CD-ROM adventure game, Myst.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£34.99**



**THE CURSE OF MONKEY ISLAND**  
Number 3 in the classic Monkey Island series, with incredible high resolution graphics and film quality animation.

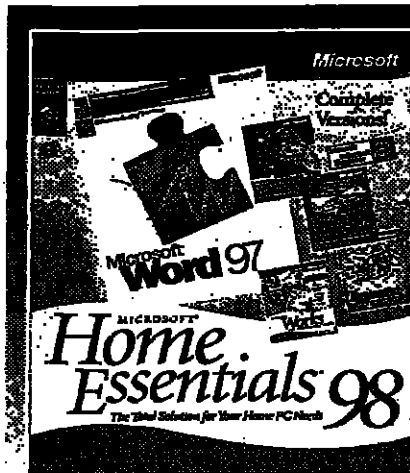
**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£34.99**



**RED ALERT TRIPLE PACK**  
This triple pack features the original, complete strategy game plus the additional response featuring the battle of the Allies against the Soviets. Total Separate Selling Price: £49.97

**SAVE £10**  
**£49.97**

## HOME OFFICE OFFICE PACKAGES



**MICROSOFT HOME ESSENTIALS 98**  
The total solution for your home PC needs. Contains Microsoft Word 97, Works 4.5, Money 98, Encarta World Atlas and Entertainment Pack.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£99**

**FIRST AID 98**  
Automatically fixes tens of thousands of common computer problems. PC users experience every day. **£34.99**

**NORTON ANTI-VIRUS 4**  
Detects and removes today's viruses, covering all possible sources of infection. **£49.99**

**MICROSOFT WORKS 4.5**  
The new edition of the most popular integrated software in the world. **£79**

**DRAGON DICTATE PRO**  
Speech recognition taken to the limits with this professional voice dictation package. **£89**

**MICROSOFT OFFICE 97 SMALL BUSINESS EDITION UPGRADE**  
Specifically designed to meet the needs of small businesses. **£179**

**MICROSOFT MONEY 98**  
Makes it easy to perform key financial tasks, from paying bills to planning for the future. **£29.99**

**QUICKEN DELUXE V6**  
The UK's best-selling financial software. **£49**

**SAGE INSTANT ACCOUNTS V4**  
Accounts software, ideal for small businesses. **£99**

**MICROSOFT MONEY 98 FINANCIAL SUITE**  
The complete, integrated financial system. Helps you master all of your finances, from goal planning to investing. **£49.99**



**IBM VIA VOICE**  
Dictate documents into your PC using continuous speech with IBM's newest and fastest software. **NEW £99**

## FINANCE

## DESIGN

**MICROSOFT PICTURE IT 2**  
Easily turn good pictures into great pictures with this powerful photo-editing package. **NEW £49.99**

**KAY'S PHOTO SOAP** **£29.99**  
**PRINT SHOP DELUXE** **£29.99**  
**BRODERBUND 125,000 CLICK ART** **£49.99**  
**BRODERBUND LIVEPIX** **£49.99**  
**TEXTBRIDGE PRO 98** **£69**  
**UMSI MASTERCLIPS 202,000** **£69**  
**MGI VIDEO WAVE** **£79**  
**PAGIS PRO V10** **£99**  
**COBEL DRAW 7 Upgrade** **£199**

## LEISURE INTERESTS

### FOOD & DRINK

### HOME & GARDEN

**RHODES ON RUM**  
Contains over 500 specially selected recipes and also suggests dishes to suit the ingredients in your kitchen. **FREE GLOVES** **£29.99**

**GEORGE HAMILTON GARDEN DESIGNER**  
This innovative package allows you to design and create the perfect garden with the aid of the popular TV expert Geoff Hamilton. **FREE BOOK** **£19.99**

**GREAT GOURMET** **£14.99**  
**GOURMET DESERTS** **£14.99**  
**SCHWARTZ WORLD CUISINE** **£19.99**  
**OZ CLARK'S WINE GUIDE** **£19.99**  
**COOKING AROUND THE WORLD** **£19.99**  
**TASTE OF ITALY** **£19.99**  
**MICROSOFT WINE GUIDE 97** **£29.99**

**3D LANDSCAPE** **£14.99**  
**GARDEN CLUB** **£14.99**  
**3D HOME DESIGNER** **£14.99**  
**GARDEN DESIGNER 2/ INTERIOR DESIGNER** **£19.99**  
**NATIONAL TRUST** **£29.99**  
**VISUAL HOME** **£39.99**

## HOBBIES

## MUSIC

**RESULT**  
Test your knowledge and your nerve with this fast paced sports quiz hosted by the legendary Desmond Lynam. **FREE VIDEO** **£29.99**

**MUSIC TIME LIKE**  
This popular package is the easy way to print, play and write music with lyrics, whether you are a beginner or a professional. **INC VAT** **£79**

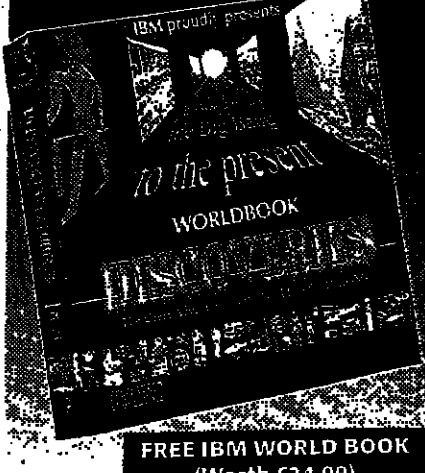
**PINBALL** **£14.99**  
**PLAY BETTER GOLF** **£19.99**  
**SUNDAY TIMES CROSSWORDS** **£19.99**  
**COMPLETE PUB QUIZ** **£19.99**  
**INTERNATIONAL SAILING** **£19.99**  
**GARY LINEKER'S REAL FOOTBALL** **£24.99**  
**FIN FIN** **£29.99**  
**JAMES BOND** **£29.99**  
**ARSENAL: INSIDE HIGHBURY** **£29.99**

**TECHNO & TRANCE** **INC VAT** **£19.99**  
**GUITAR VOLUME 1** **£19.99**  
**OASIS INTERACTIVE SONGBOOK** **£29.99**  
**MUSIC ACE** **£29.99**  
**MAXMAN STUDIO** **£39.99**  
**GUITAR METHOD** **£49.99**  
**DISCOVERING KEYBOARDS** **£79**  
**DIGITAL ORCHESTRA** **£129.95**  
**CUBASE** **£299**

## REFERENCE ENCYCLOPEDIAS

**DISCOVERIES OF THE WORLD**  
Discover the great adventures of the world on 5 CD-ROMS, with this time travel encyclopedia that allows you to be present at important historical events from the dawn of time to the present day.

**NEW**  
INC VAT  
**£49.99**



**FREE IBM WORLD BOOK (Worth £24.99)**

**THE WAY THINGS WORK**  
Explains the ins and outs of everything from levers to lightbulbs. **£14.99**

**ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE V2**  
A compelling new version of this lively reference source. **£27.99**

**CHRONICLE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HISTORY**  
Experience headline news from the beginning of time to the present day. **£29.99**

## ROUTE PLANNER

## FAMILY HEALTH

**MICROSOFT AUTOROUTE EXPRESS 98 GB**  
Organise business trips and plan family holidays, to over 65,000 destinations across Great Britain. **NEW** **£54**

**ULTIMATE HUMAN BODY** **£14.99**  
**DR HILARY JONES** **£19.99**  
**DIET & FITNESS** **£19.99**  
**BMA FAMILY HEALTH ENCYCLOPEDIA** **£29.99**

**AA HOTELS & RESERVATIONS** **£19.99**  
**AA STREETMASTER LONDON** **£49.99**  
**AA MULTIMEDIA BRITAIN & IRELAND** **£49.99**  
**MICROSOFT AUTOROUTE EXPRESS 98 EUROPE** **£54**  
**PERSONAL NAVIGATOR** **£119**

**FAMILY TREE**  
Trace your family's roots and find out about its past with this easy to use package. **FREE BOOK** **£19.99**

## EDUCATION

### CHILDRENS



**LEGO ISLAND**  
Discover and explore a virtual Lego island in this incredible 3D adventure, which brings the fun, imaginative world of Lego to your PC.

**FREE PENCIL CASE WHILE STOCKS LAST** **INC VAT** **£29.99**  
**HURRY LIMITED STOCKS**

### MR POTATO HEADS ACTIVITY PACK

### HERCULES ANIMATED STORYBOOK

More fun for children in the world of everybody's favourite potato. **£19.99**

All the educational fun children love plus a chance to meet the gods of Greek mythology. **FREE BOOK** **£29.99**

**HERCULES PRINT STUDIO**  
Create your own stationery using over 100 character images from Disney's newest film. **£29.99**

**LIVE & KICKING**  
Be the producer of the popular Saturday morning TV programme. **£29.99**

**GOOSEBUMPS: ATTACK OF THE MUTANT**  
Only you can stop the masked mutant from taking over the world. **£29.99**

**PINGU** **INC VAT** **£19.99**  
**HERCULES ACTION GAME** **£29.99**  
**FUN SCHOOL QUAD PACK** **£29.99**  
**101 DALMATIANS ANIMATED STORYBOOK** **£29.99**

## LANGUAGES

## ADULT EDUCATION

**FRENCH A LEVEL** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

**GCSE ENGLISH**  
Improve your English and get one step ahead. **£19.99**

**LEARN SPANISH** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

**OFFICE TYPING** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

**LEARN ITALIAN** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

**GCSE MATHS** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

**SUCCESS IN SPANISH** **INC VAT** **£29.99**

**GCSE PHYSICS** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

**ROSETTA STONE RANGE** **£149**

**GCSE SCIENCE** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

**SUCCESS IN FRENCH**  
Learn French in 12 interactive lessons with this superb new tutorial. **FREE MICROPHONE** **INC VAT** **£29.99**

**STUDY WORLD MATHS** **INC VAT** **£19.99**

## PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464

**LONDON AREA**  
BRENTFORD  
CROYDON  
ENFIELD  
GUILDFORD  
LAKESIDE  
STAPLES CORNER

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

BY VOUCHER REDEMPTION. SEE IN-STORE FOR DETAILS. \*BY VOUCHER REDEMPTION (THE £1000 INCLUDED IN THIS OFFER INCLUDES ONE INSTALLED SOFTWARE TITLE, PRINTER AND PRICING WILL BE CHARGED AT 14.75% BASED ON MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDED RETAIL PRICE EXCLUDING DISC AND MANUALS, & BY VOUCHER, WHEN BOUGHT WITH ANY PRINTER, ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS. \*PRICE ESTABLISHED IN ALL COUNTRIES FOR 31 DAYS. INCLUDES 12 MONTHS SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWSWEEK. DOES NOT INCLUDE COST OF PHONE CALLS. BASED ON CURRENT SELLING PRICES OF EQUIPMENT TITLED EXCLUDING DISC AND MANUALS FOR THE LATEST SOFTWARE. THE TOTAL PRICES OF EQUIPMENT AND MANUALS FOR THE LATEST SOFTWARE. THE TOTAL PRICES OF EQUIPMENT AND MANUALS FOR THE LATEST SOFTWARE. THE TOTAL PRICES OF EQUIPMENT AND MANUALS FOR THE LATEST SOFTWARE.

سكنا من الامثل



# 7/HEALTH NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
7 DEFE  
VEMB

## Doctors sceptical over £200 gadget to make baby brainy



Birth control: The development of BabyPlus reflects a national obsession with the health quick fix Photograph: Colorific

You strap it to your waist for the last 16 weeks of pregnancy and it gives you a brainier baby. Or so the manufacturers claim. *Jeremy Lawrence, Health Editor, looks at how ambitious mothers and their money are soon parted.*

It is a gadget like a Walkman and it plays knocking and whooshing sounds through your expanding abdomen which are said to stimulate your baby's mental development. The sounds mimic the mother's heart beat and it is the subtle differences between these and the real thing that are believed to arouse the baby's curiosity and keep its brain cells developing.

But the BabyPlus, which is made in the US, does not come cheap. At £202.50 it would pay for a lot of nappies and reflects a national obsession with the health quick fix. Medical experts remain sceptical.

Sue Taylor, head of BabyPlus in the UK, said 6,000 had been sold over the past three years. "It kick starts the thinking process. I used it with my fourth child and the improvement in his attention span compared with the others is the most exciting thing."

Developed by US psychologist, Brent Logan, the theory is that by stimulating the baby's brain, the device causes more nerve connections to be laid down so that the brain cells do not die off at birth. Around



BabyPlus: The device plays sounds which mimic the mother's heartbeat

40 per cent of brain cells are said to perish because they fail to connect to other cells.

Babies born after use of the device are said to be more supple, more alert, with better muscle and head control. The gadget is especially popular in the Far East and a large research study is underway in India and Russia.

Ms Taylor said: "I wish it was much cheaper but that is just the way it works."

It was expensive to develop and there are just not enough mothers wearing it. There are also royalties to be paid to Dr Logan."

Dr Sarah Brewer, a GP who is writing a book on pre-natal stimulation, said most people were sceptical of its benefits until they saw the results. "My son's eyes were open when he was born and he had excellent head control. A lot of this is anecdotal and we are just at the stage where the evidence is coming in but there is enough for me to feel there is a benefit there. It is about trying to give your baby the best possible start in life."

Obstetricians say there is clear evidence that babies respond to stimulation in the womb and that, once born, a baby that is left unstimulated will not develop. There is no evidence, however, that playing sounds to the baby before birth in the womb is beneficial.

Dr John Friend, spokesman for the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists said: "Diet and environment - whether the mother drinks or smokes - are likely to be more important for the baby's development than this device. It is probably not worth the money."

Parents' anxiety about their offspring make them ready consumers of new ideas. A missionary in China trying to earn his fare home claimed to have invented a medicine that would produce a baby boy. The potion came with a money-back guarantee if it failed. The canny inventor only had to return half the money - and got rich.

## Infection rate in NHS hospitals is 10 times that in private sector

Up to one in ten NHS patients now acquires an infection while in hospital. *Roger Dobson examines the possible causes.*

The pressure on beds in the wake of the National Health Service reforms may be one reason for a rise in the number of patients being infected in hospitals, according to specialists giving evidence to a House of Lords committee investigating the rise in resistance to antibiotics.

So-called hot-bedding, where the same bed could be occupied by different people in a 24-hour period, may be one of the main causes leading to an infection rate 10 times that in the private sector. Some specialists believe isolation wards are now needed for infected patients.

"There is a strong view now

that hot-bedding, the pressure on beds and the necessity for mixed-specialty wards, are very difficult circumstances in which to conduct infection control," said Professor Mark Casewell of King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry in London, who is one of Britain's foremost experts on hospital infection control.

Patients occupying hospital beds are also more likely to be sicker and thus more open to infection than they used to be because of the rise in day surgery, which means less serious cases no longer need accommodation.

New guidelines on the control of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), one of the most dangerous infections, are being finalised and are expected to warn that more money is needed to counter the problem. "It has proved impossible to eliminate one of these MRSA strains

from some of our hospitals," says Professor Casewell in his submission to the committee. He says this inability is "unique and unnerving".

An article in the *British Medical Journal* says the latest estimates are that 10 per cent of hospital patients will acquire an infection. The private health insurers Bupa says the infection rate in their hospitals, which have small wards and more side rooms, is less than 1 per cent.

In the report, consultant microbiologist Dr Keith Barker says there are a number of problems facing infection-control doctors: "The new NHS requires rapid turnover of patients and operates under considerable financial pressure. Patients are sicker and more vulnerable to hospital-acquired infection. They are slotted into any bed and there are insufficient ... side rooms in which to isolate patients."

He adds: "Levels of basic cleanliness and the general fabric of clinical areas can be poor ... In essence, the new management of the NHS negates effective infection control."

An emerging threat is that several organisms are increasingly resistant to antibiotics and Professor Casewell, in his submission to the Lords' committee, says: "The requirement for isolation wards for MRSA, as well as other transmissible infections, has never been greater but senior management and health ministers have yet to be persuaded of the costs benefits of this investment."

He says the ultimate costs of not controlling MRSA will be a strong resistance to all antibiotics: "In Tokyo we already have a hint of this with an organism that is halfway up the scale to being resistant to the last drug we have in the armoury."

## Machines win by a nose in taste game Lower classes born to life of poorer health

Human tasters could soon be replaced by electronic ones, as the Agriculture Minister, Dr Jack Cunningham discovered yesterday. Scientists at the University of Nottingham are developing an electronic "taste bud", which will be used to develop food with more flavour by analysing the aromas that form in our noses when we eat meals.

Yesterday Dr Cunningham saw the machine as he opened the university's new £2.2m Food Science building. The "electronic taster" is being developed as part of a three-year project in which the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is investing £120,000, half of the total funding.

The aim of the project is to build a machine that the food industry can use to develop new products. Whereas natural foods achieve their balance of taste, "mouth feel" and nutrition through their genes,

manufacturers of processed foods face a constant struggle when trying to develop "low fat" or "low calorie" products by mechanical means. This is because taking out fat generally means taking out "taste": fats absorb and hold the complex aromatic compounds that we perceive as taste, and contribute strongly to the sensation that professional tasters describe as "mouth feel" once we start chewing something.

But the trouble with tasters is that their sense of taste varies from day to day. An electronic "nose" that can precisely evaluate the aromas in different chewed-up foods, and especially in experimental ones, would be a valuable addition to the present testing regime that new food products undergo, though humans would still be essential in the final stage before a food reached the shops.

*Charles Arthur, Science Editor*

Social class has a powerful influence on whether people grow up healthy or are beset by illness, a study over 33 years has confirmed.

A follow up of 11,407 people born in England, Scotland and Wales in 1958 revealed strong links between social origin and a broad spectrum of health risk factors. These included birthweight and height, household overcrowding, smoking and diet, breastfeeding, divorce, educational achievement and unemployment.

With only a few exceptions there were "strong significant trends" of increasing adverse risk associated with lower social classes.

The researchers, Dr Chris Power and Sharon Matthews of the Institute of Child Health, London, gathered information from participants in the study from birth up to the age of 33. They also obtained data from

parents, teachers and doctors. Writing in *The Lancet* they concluded: "An individual's chance of encountering multiple adverse health risks throughout life is influenced powerfully by social position."

"Social trends in adult-disease risk factors do not emerge exclusively in mid-life but accumulate over decades."

The trend towards greater risk with lower social class was especially strong for general sickness, respiratory symptoms and psychological distress in both men and women.

Key factors included maternal and passive smoking, own smoking habits, and low consumption of fresh fruit and vegetables. For each of these risk increased from the highest to the lowest class of origin.

The authors suggested that pre-school care and education could play an important role in tackling the problem.

INNOVATING COMPUTING FAXING PRINTING COPYING

# Buy a Canon Bubble Jet Printer now and get up to £200 off your next holiday

YOU AND CANON CAN.

For further information call  
0121 666 4300

Canon

Thomas Cook

Thomas Cook

www.canon.co.uk

Choose from Thomas Cook Holidays brochures for a minimum of 2 adults for 1 week (or more) when booked by phone through Thomas Cook Direct Conditional on purchase of Thomas Cook Recommended insurance Offer applies to promotional printers only Applications are invalid if the printer is returned for a full cash refund within 14 days. Full terms and conditions available on request. Business purchases excluded. Offer open to UK residents aged 18 or over. Value of Certificate: EUC-250 - £140, BUC-300 - £200.

CHAT  
AS LONG  
AS YOU LIKE  
FOR 50P

Now Sundays, Wednesdays, Saturdays  
(Our 50p offer is for 50p per hour)

CABLE 2

What can we do for you?



## E-mail name scam costs duo £65,000

Two men who profited by registering Internet "domain names", the essential part of website and e-mail addresses, belonging to trading giants including Sainsbury's and the Virgin group, were facing ruin yesterday. They were ordered to pay £65,000 court costs after being banned by the High Court yesterday from infringing trademarks and "passing-off".

Richard Conway and Julian Nicholson had specialised in registering domain names such as "ladbrokes.com", "mark-sandspencer.com" - and even "spice-girls.net" and "buckinghampalace.org" - without the consent of the owners of the trademarks. They then wrote to the owners offering them for sale. But Deputy Judge Jonathan Sumption QC ordered them to pay £65,000 of legal costs after BT, Marks & Spencer, Ladbrokes, J Sainsbury and Virgin Enterprises brought an action against the duo, who had claimed that their activity was like collecting novelty postcards.

The judge also instructed the men to take steps to have the disputed names assigned to the companies. He said the men's activities "followed over a substantial period of time... are plainly intended to deceive." - *Charles Arthur, Science Ed-*



Festive cheer: Kay Berry, one of fifty Father Christmases who travelled from all over Britain to undergo training at Asda's headquarters in Leeds yesterday. They will work in the stores over the festive period. Photograph: Tim Smith

## Government feels the heat on class sizes

The Government was yesterday warned of "storm clouds gathering" around its pledge to cut infant classes to 30 pupils as new figures revealed class sizes rose again last year. Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent, finds ministers insisting the promise will be honoured.

Pressure on the government to succeed in its drive to recruit more new teachers was underlined yesterday as statistics showed the number of pupils per teacher in state schools in England rose in 1996 to 18.6.

The number is up from 18.5 pupils per teacher the previous year, and 17.3 pupils per teacher 10 years ago.

As the figures were released, the Government announced it is to raise the provisional recruitment target for primary teaching courses for next academic year by 450 trainees to 11,500. The increase is designed to meet expected need for more primary teachers in order to fulfil the Government's manifesto commitment to cut class sizes for five-, six- and seven-year-olds to 30 or below by 2002.

There are now almost half a million infant pupils in oversized classes - approaching a quarter of all pupils in the age group - compared with 440,000 in 1996. The school standards minister Stephen Byers yesterday

said the Government was still on target to deliver its pledge on class sizes, beginning next September with £22m released through the phasing out of the assisted places scheme. That money, expected to pay for an extra 1,000 teachers, will be followed by a further £100m the following year.

Teachers' leaders and the Liberal Democrat education spokesman Don Foster acknowledged the class-size rise figures were the legacy of the previous government, but said more remedial action was needed. Mr Foster claimed the Government risked failing to meet its pledge on class sizes unless it took more robust and urgent action. "The storm clouds are gathering," he warned, claiming the Government was caught in "a pincer movement" with too little money to cut class sizes and too few willing recruits for teacher training.

The looming crisis in teacher supply was highlighted earlier this month when it emerged Tony Blair had brought in Alec Reed, the head of Britain's biggest employment agency, to seek out ways to tackle the problem.

At the same time, shortly after the launch of a £10m recruitment drive by the Teacher Training Agency, the Commons education select committee pointed to an 11 per cent drop in the number of undergraduates studying teaching, and warned failure to tackle the crisis could jeopardise the Government's drive to raise standards.

## Publicly funded pupil loses place at top private school

A 14-year-old girl accused of poor work and causing fear among other pupils through bullying and intimidation yesterday lost her publicly funded place at a girls' private school.

The High Court refused to order £12,300-a-year Cobham Hall, Kent, to take her back - even though her place was withdrawn and given to another girl unlawfully.

Mr Justice Dyson said it had been a "difficult" decision. But it would be wrong to order the school to educate G, who cannot be named for legal reasons, at its own expense when she was no longer wanted and teachers claimed the move could prove "disastrous" for the school and G herself.

## Abortion victory for girl, 13

A judge's decision allowing a 13-year-old pregnant rape victim to travel to Britain from Ireland for an abortion has been upheld after a legal challenge by the girl's parents, supported by pro-life groups. The Dublin High Court decided not to overrule an earlier ruling in the Children's Court. It was unclear last night if there will be a further appeal to the Supreme Court early next week or if the girl would travel immediately to Britain.

## Animal group wins test case

The UK's leading anti-vivisection group yesterday won a test case to prevent an animal laboratory firm using anti-stalking legislation to curb its protests.

The British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) had asked the High Court in London to remove its name from a restraining injunction served on it by Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), which has animal testing laboratories in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Cheshire.

## Why Does Your Memory Fail You?

WHAT THIS FREE BOOK WILL SHOW YOU:  
How to remember names and faces  
How to remember facts and figures  
How to learn faster  
How to concentrate and overcome distractions  
How to speak fluently without notes  
How to succeed in examinations  
How to develop a powerful memory  
This book shows you how to use your memory to its full potential. It is a must-have for anyone who wants to improve their memory.

## THE TROUSER PRESSER'S GIFT

Who presses his trousers? You? Him? No-one? Or does he take them to the cleaners, just for a press? There really is a more civilised answer. It's called the Corby Trousers Press and it makes an inspired gift. Only Corby has a wide choice of models, a free 5 year guarantee and a unique system to ensure perfect results every time. Prices start from just £390.

**CORBY TROUSER PRESS**  
Creating the right impression

ALWAYS - BEVERLY - REMAINS - SELECTED CLOTHES  
HOUSE OF FRANKS - JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP  
MILNER HILLS - FORTWORTH - SCOTCH POWER  
BLACK PILLS - ON CALL FREE 0800 220 221

## KITCHEN APPLIANCE SALE

**SAVE £140 ON LAUNDRY**  
UP TO 70% IN STORE

**WASHERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £299.99... **SAVE £80 £219.99**  
In-store £229.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**  
In-store £199.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**  
In-store £199.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

**WASHER DRYERS**  
Whisper 1000 500 spin 110 wash load 12 programmes normally £499.99... **SAVE £100 £399.99**  
In-store £429.99... **SAVE £100 £329.99**  
In-store £399.99... **SAVE £100 £299.99**  
In-store £299.99... **SAVE £100 £199.99**

## index

**YOU CAN'T BUY BETTER**  
Use the Comet Price Index - it's an up-to-date list featuring the bestselling top brand products from Comet. You'll find it in the national newspapers every Saturday and on Teletext Channel 4 p425 every day.

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

**FREE FULLY INSTALLED SATELLITE SYSTEM**  
HURRY! MUST END SUNDAY

## SAVE ON HOME ENTERTAINMENT

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMING TOGETHER**  
Save £100 on TV & Video Packages

**COMET**  
OUR PRICES CANNOT BE BEATEN  
If you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

**COMET**  
MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY AND UNTIL 8PM WEEKDAYS  
For local store details phone free on 0500 425 425. Visit our web site at: www.comet.co.uk

**COMET**  
OUR PRICES CANNOT BE BEATEN  
If you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

**COMET**  
OUR PRICES CANNOT BE BEATEN  
If you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

**COMET**  
OUR PRICES CANNOT BE BEATEN  
If you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.



# 9/THE LAW

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997

Shouting 'taxi' to hail a cab: an everyday illegal act for the unwitting citizen



It is still technically against the law to shout 'taxi' to hail a ride, just as it is to wear wet shoes while driving

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

Britons break the law up to 20 times a day, without even realising it, claims a magazine. Michael Streeter on the law in our everyday lives.

Have you ever driven a car wearing wet shoes? Or borrowed a pen from the stationery cupboard and taken it home? If so you may have fallen foul of one of the many unwitting ways to break the law in modern society.

The monthly magazine *Focus*, which reports odd events in the world of science and society, claims that a person's average day is a "legal minefield" of which we are blissfully unaware. The bad news is that a typical Briton, driving to work at an office, may break as many as 20 laws in a day. The good news is that such laws, many of them contained in ob-

scure and ancient statutes, are often not enforced, and more honoured in their breach than their observance. Many are at the discretion and judgement of the enforcement authorities.

In cars, smokers are under more threat than that to their health. The simple act of stubbing out a cigarette or lighting up another can lay a driver open to driving without due care and attention. Having wet shoes could make you unfit to drive.

Alternative transport such as a taxi could be equally fraught. It is still technically illegal, says *Focus*, to shout "taxi" to hail a cab. Once at the office the problems do not end; taking home a pen from the office can lead to a theft charge while a "free" coffee or cup of water at work should be declared to the Inland Revenue as a taxable benefit.

As we approach the festive season, there are lessons to be learnt by the law enforcers

themselves. It is, under old statute, apparently still unlawful for the police and other emergency services to work on Christmas Day, while even more oddly serving more than three courses for Christmas dinner is also against an old law.

The further back the laws, the more strange they seem. Any butcher found guilty of selling bad meat can still be put in the pillory for a day, and it is still illegal for a salesman to try to sell anything to a woman on a Sunday.

Focus editor Paul Colbert said many of the laws came from attempts to control small sections of society, the rules quickly becoming outdated.

"The nation's lawmakers need to wake up," he said. "It's still illegal to beat your wife after 9pm because of the noise or to make love on the steps of a church after sundown. I suppose it's allowed in broad daylight, is it?"

## Irvine calls for more black judges

The Lord Chancellor is announcing measures to encourage more blacks and Asians in the judiciary. He also promises to deal personally with any allegations of discrimination. Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent, says such an initiative is badly needed.

The bare statistics in Lord Irvine of Lairg's speech to ethnic minority lawyers this morning tell their own story. Only one per cent of circuit judges are not white, and 1.5 per cent of recorders. Among the senior ranks of the judiciary there are no black judges at all.

This morning at the Minority Lawyers Conference, Lord Irvine will announce plans to encourage more lawyers from the ethnic minorities to consider applying for careers as judges. One idea is a so-called "shadowing" scheme whereby young lawyers will be able to sit with experienced judges and gain an idea of the work involved.

Another proposal by the Lord Chancellor is for a "mentoring" scheme where judges would be asked to advise and guide junior colleagues in the part-time judiciary.

"I hope that increasing contact between serving judges and candidates for judicial office, especially from the ethnic minorities, will help to break down some of the barriers which are perceived to stand between the individual and the Bench," Lord Irvine says today. One problem is the lack of

black and Asian lawyers among the more senior barristers - from where most judges are drawn. Only 1 per cent of barristers who have been qualified for more than 15 years are from ethnic minorities. The good news, says Lord Irvine, is that this figure rises to 8.3 per cent among barristers with five to ten years experience.

He also reveals that he has instructed civil servants to provide more help for anyone considering a career as a judge. He will tell the lawyers: "I encourage you to use them. I will not be scattering promotions around like confetti - appointments must be made on merit," he says. "But I am determined to break down any culture of not applying because 'they'd never have the likes of me'." Lord Irvine also makes a personal promise to investigate any discrimination and invites people to write to him. "I undertake to look at the case personally and provide you with a personal reply."

At the same time the Lord Chancellor is proposing a new system of on-the-job assessment for new part-time jobs by experienced so-called "Pupil Master" judges. The lack of such assessment is a weakness in the selection procedure of full-time judges, he believes.

His speech is likely to be welcomed by many who complain about the lack of black representation on judicial benches, though critics will point out that it will take more than a handful of measures from a Lord Chancellor to change the overwhelmingly white, middle-class and male ethos of the judiciary.

Lord Irvine says he will keep the present confidential consultation between officials and other judges on assessing like-ly talent for the bench.

## Police turn to gay media for recruits

Police forces are increasingly advertising in the gay and lesbian media to attract a wider variety of recruits, it was revealed yesterday.

Paul Fairweather, from the National Advisory Group - Policing Lesbian and Gay Communities, said so far the policy was limited to areas where there were well-known gay communities, such as Sussex and Manchester. "In the long term we hope it will become a matter of normal practice."

Mr Fairweather, who was speaking during the group's annual conference in Brighton, said there was a real need for

the police to recruit more openly gay and lesbian officers. "That will change the canteen culture of our forces."

The organisation backed a speech by Home Office Minister Alan Michael, the first government minister to attend such a conference, who acknowledged the need to build bridges with the gay community. "I recognise that lack of trust in the police has resulted in serious underreporting of homophobic attacks and a feeling that people's lifestyles - rather than the crimes are under investigation," he said.

However, there were some good examples of police practice around the country where there has been good "dialogue" between the police and gay communities, he said.

"The Government is also playing its part. Legislation is now in place to ensure people do not have to suffer a campaign of harassment, and it can be used for the protection of lesbians and gay men."

### Sony Centre

# SAVE UP TO £70 OFF RRP

## PLUS FREE SONY DISCMAN OR WALKMAN on selected Sony CD HiFi systems

**FREE Sony Walkman**

**SAVE £50 OFF RRP**

**NEW LOW PRICE NOW £279.99**

Sony High Power Mini HiFi system with 3 CD changer

- 2 x 25W RMS Amplifier
- 12 band auto-tuning
- FM/AM tuner with 30 presets
- DB FB bass boost
- Supplied with remote control
- Four equaliser sound presets

MHC RX70 Was £329.99 RRP

### SONY

**NEW SONY BROCHURE AVAILABLE NOW!**

**SAVE £50 OFF RRP**

**NOW ONLY £199.99**

MHC C20 Was £249.99 RRP

**SONY TRAINED STAFF**

**PRICE GUARANTEE**  
ASK INSTORE FOR DETAILS

**SONY YOUR LOCAL SPECIALIST**

# Sony Centre

Promotion Period runs from 26th October to 24th December 1997

\*Retail, TV, Hi-Fi, Stereo, Video, Music, Sony, Sony Centre, Walkman, Discman and other trademarks of the Sony Corporation, Japan. RRP is the recommended retail price. \*RRP is the guaranteed recommended retail price for the period of the promotion. All guarantees are subject to availability at participating Sony Centres only.

### SONY

**FREE Sony Discman**

**SAVE £70 OFF RRP**

**£379.99**

2 x 100W (RMS) amplifier • 3 CD Changer • Full DJ Mix effects • Groove, loop, flash, wave • Double drum pad • Rhythm box • Non stop club mix play • RDS 3 band tuner • 4 speakers supplied MHC RX30 Was £449.99 RRP

### SONY

**FREE Sony Walkman**

**SAVE £50 OFF RRP**

**£449.99**

CD and synchro recording • 2 x 30W RMS amplifier • Digital recording and editing features • RDS tuner with station name • Dolby B auto reverse • Cassette deck MDT 333 Was £499.99 RRP

### SONY

**FREE Sony Walkman**

**SAVE £50 OFF RRP**

**£499.99**

2 x 100W (RMS) amplifier • Front AV inputs • 3 CD Changer • FM/AM/RDS tuner • Feather touch double cassette deck • 4 way 5 unit speakers MHC W550

### SONY

**FREE Sony Walkman**

**SAVE £50 OFF RRP**

**£499.99**

120W x 2 (RMS) amplifier • 9 band spectrum analyzer • 6 CD changer with non stop "Club Mix" play • FM/AM/LW tuner with 40 presets • Auto reverse double cassette deck • Turntable COMPACT X20 Was £549.99 RRP

### SONY

**NEW**

**£299.99**

Solid aluminium fascia panel • Real glass CD top • 20W x 2 RMS power output from active speakers • FM/AM tuner with 30 station presets • Full logic cassette deck • Supplied remote control JEWEL CMT-EX2

### SONY

**MEGA BASS**

**NEW**

**£159.99**

Fully programmable CD with 20 random music sensor • Full function clock and sleep timer • FM/AM/LW Digital tuner with 10 x 3 band presets • Full auto shut off tape deck PMS 205

**SONY TRAINED STAFF**

**PRICE GUARANTEE**  
ASK INSTORE FOR DETAILS

**SONY YOUR LOCAL SPECIALIST**

# Sony Centre

Promotion Period runs from 26th October to 24th December 1997

\*Retail, TV, Hi-Fi, Stereo, Video, Music, Sony, Sony Centre, Walkman, Discman and other trademarks of the Sony Corporation, Japan. RRP is the recommended retail price. \*RRP is the guaranteed recommended retail price for the period of the promotion. All guarantees are subject to availability at participating Sony Centres only.

### THERE'S A SONY CENTRE NEAR YOU.

#### SOUTH EAST

- BARNSTAPLE Tel: 01271 43425
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BRIGHTON Tel: 01273 666049
- BROOKLYN Tel: 01873 450 5510
- CAMBRIDGE Tel: 01223 682060
- CANTERBURY Tel: 01227 864495
- CHELSEA Tel: 01234 960730
- CHELSEA Tel: 01234 960730
- CHELSEA Tel: 01234 960730
- CRAWLEY Tel: 01293 825807
- CROYDON Tel: 0181 649 7600
- EASTBOURNE Tel: 01323 417017
- EPSOM Tel: 0181 727 7015
- FAREHAM Tel: 01253 246000
- FARNHAM Tel: 01253 714562
- GUILDFORD Tel: 01483 533224
- HIGH WYCOMBE Tel: 01494 521382
- HORSHAM Tel: 01293 235432
- ILFORD Tel: 0181 554 0244
- KINGSTON Tel: 0181 541 0581
- LAPESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE Tel: 01708 502139
- LONDON BANGOR Tel: 01753 496 2928
- LONDON BENT CROSS SHOPPING CENTRE Tel: 0181 202 4719
- LONDON HARRIS Tel: 0171 730 1231
- LONDON NEWINGTON Tel: 0171 535 3594
- MAIDSTONE Tel: 01622 734743
- PORTSMOUTH Tel: 01703 874 442
- READING Tel: 0118 3503 330
- RUISLIP Tel: 01895 836068
- SOUTHAMPTON Tel: 01703 335912
- SUTTON Tel: 0181 720 2040
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS Tel: 01892 752329
- WALTHAM CROSS Tel: 01922 715 558
- WATFORD Tel: 01923 226770
- WELSH GARDEN CITY Tel: 01276 321044
- WIMBORNE Tel: 01945 947 1214
- WORKING Tel: 01454 705600
- WORTHING Tel: 01253 424026

#### SOUTH WEST

- BARNSTAPLE Tel: 01271 43425
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BRIGHTON Tel: 01273 666049
- BROOKLYN Tel: 01873 450 5510
- CAMBRIDGE Tel: 01223 682060
- CANTERBURY Tel: 01227 864495
- CHELSEA Tel: 01234 960730
- CHELSEA Tel: 01234 960730
- CHELSEA Tel: 01234 960730
- CRAWLEY Tel: 01293 825807
- CROYDON Tel: 0181 649 7600
- EASTBOURNE Tel: 01323 417017
- EPSOM Tel: 0181 727 7015
- FAREHAM Tel: 01253 246000
- FARNHAM Tel: 01253 714562
- GUILDFORD Tel: 01483 533224
- HIGH WYCOMBE Tel: 01494 521382
- HORSHAM Tel: 01293 235432
- ILFORD Tel: 0181 554 0244
- KINGSTON Tel: 0181 541 0581
- LAPESIDE SHOPPING CENTRE Tel: 01708 502139
- LONDON BANGOR Tel: 01753 496 2928
- LONDON BENT CROSS SHOPPING CENTRE Tel: 0181 202 4719
- LONDON HARRIS Tel: 0171 730 1231
- LONDON NEWINGTON Tel: 0171 535 3594
- MAIDSTONE Tel: 01622 734743
- PORTSMOUTH Tel: 01703 874 442
- READING Tel: 0118 3503 330
- RUISLIP Tel: 01895 836068
- SOUTHAMPTON Tel: 01703 335912
- SUTTON Tel: 0181 720 2040
- TUNBRIDGE WELLS Tel: 01892 752329
- WALTHAM CROSS Tel: 01922 715 558
- WATFORD Tel: 01923 226770
- WELSH GARDEN CITY Tel: 01276 321044
- WIMBORNE Tel: 01945 947 1214
- WORKING Tel: 01454 705600
- WORTHING Tel: 01253 424026

#### WALES

- CARDIFF Tel: 01222 228020
- NEWPORT Tel: 01692 215777
- SWANSEA Tel: 01792 798101

#### MIDLANDS

- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579
- BIRMINGHAM Tel: 0121 256 6579

#### EAST ANGLIA

- CAMBRIDGE Tel: 01223 682060
- IPSWICH Tel: 01473 230 506
- NORWICH Tel: 01603 266820

#### NORTH

- ALDERMOUTH Tel: 01292 520028
- BARFLEIGH Tel: 01223 242424
- CHESTER Tel: 01224 313093
- LEEDS Tel: 0113 2422598
- MANCHESTER Tel: 0161 275 1117
- METRO CENTRE GATESHEAD Tel: 0191 206 1755
- MIDLESBROUGH Tel: 01942 234120
- NEWCASTLE Tel: 0191 230 0213
- OLDHAM Tel: 0161 276 1711
- STOCKPORT Tel: 0161 430 1245
- WARRINGTON Tel: 01925 372721
- YORK Tel: 01904 524225

#### SCOTLAND & N. IRELAND

- ABERDEEN Tel: 01224 213990
- ALLOA Tel: 01259 724267
- BRIDGE OF ALAN Tel: 01755 932246
- GLASGOW Tel: 0141 901 1235
- GLASGOW Tel: 0141 901 1235
- GLASGOW Tel: 0141 901 1235
- GLASGOW Tel: 0141 901 1235
- GLASGOW Tel: 0141 901 1235
- GLASGOW Tel: 0141 901 1235
- GLASGOW Tel: 0141 901 1235

for  
univ  
erw  
eratic  
low  
dying  
the  
odon  
broth  
at  
Karac

factory for girl's

factory for girl's

factory for girl's

factory for girl's

factory for girl's

factory for girl's

## Ecstatic punters lap up the business of sex

It was drizzling yesterday outside the Erotica exhibit at Olympia but it was hard to find even one man wearing a raincoat. Purple boas and codpieces, yes. Leather, yes, lots of it and a bit of silver lame too. But very few raincoats indeed. "Inevitably we will get a few sleazeballs but most of the dirty raincoats will stay at home," said Erotica organiser Brian Wiseman. "That type of man is easily frightened."

Brian was wearing a black

BY ANN  
TRENEMAN

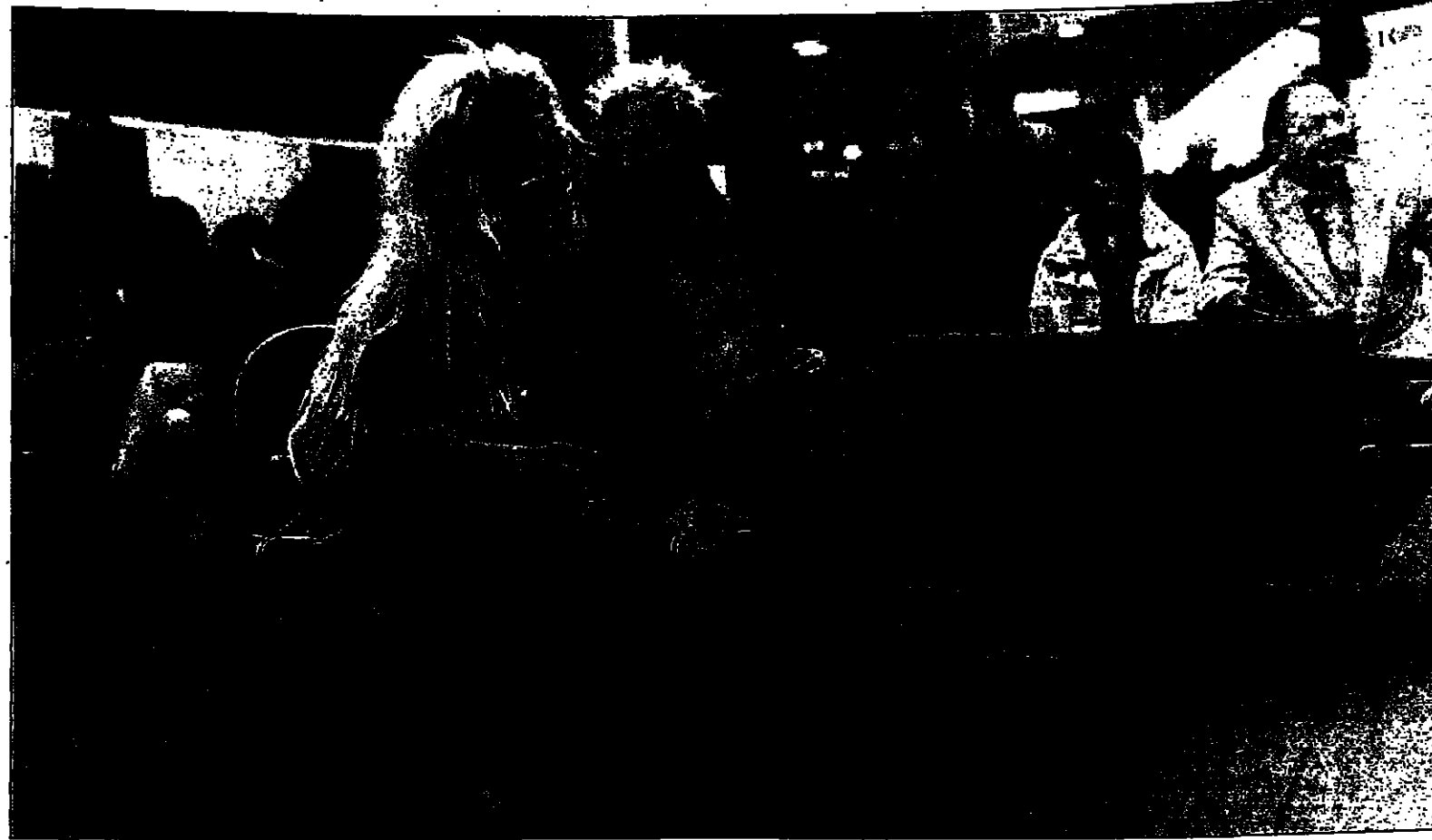
suit and a grey shirt with a pin on his lapel that says "Head Boy". This exhibit - the first of its kind in Britain - was his idea. "This is erotic, this is not sex," he insists as women prance around the catwalk. "It is not sleazy because I'm not a sleazy person." So no nudity then? "Just tops. No naked genitals." I'm not sure if this is going to be enough for Gavin Wager and Andrew Ferguson, who were first in line yesterday when the doors opened at 1pm. Both are 18 and knew exactly what had brought them to

Olympia on this wet and rainy Friday. "We want to see lots of women dancing around with no clothes on," said Andrew, who is a stock controller. "We want to see Shaggy and Mutley too," said Gavin. This, as it turns out, is a video about two lecherous guys who always get their girls.

I spot them later, swigging from a bottle of M&M's, and wonder how they'll be by the time the raffle is drawn at 10pm. They might like the first prize, which is a huge hamper of sex toys including a 13 inch dildo and something called a ripple-sucker. "It's worth £250 in all," said the raffle man proudly.

Six thousand people had booked tickets for yesterday's exhibit which runs until Sunday, and a further 2,000 were expected yesterday at the door. Most visitors said they had made the trip for curiosity's sake and there was much to be curious about among the 84 stalls that range from the hard-core to hot tubs to the Terence Higgins Trust. There was also a continuous live show (with both show girls and boys), an art exhibit and an Internet city.

Not to mention the Fetish Fair. Here I find the passion bed, complete with leather pillows, fur sheets and a web-like thing hanging over it. "That is



Too sexy for my shirt: Models and punters watching the catwalk 'bridal' show at Olympia where both girls and boys strut non-stop.  
Photograph: David Ross

a tantric love swing," says the diminutive Kim Brown of Erotica who made the bed from salvaged wood. He lifts up part of the headboard. "See,

stocks that work. They are completely disguised." He says the love swing has been tested up to 16 stone. "I'm looking for volunteers now. Interested?"

The woman at the dildo stall is not surprised at the lack of passion so far. No one has bought one of her wares yet either, despite an eye-catching

display of a life-size John Wayne cut-out complete with bristled dildo. "Western theme," she explains and adds sotto voce, "In our experience

people buy after they've had a few drinks."

The message yesterday was that sex is out of the closet to stay. David Woodhouse, 30,

and Paul Stephens, 28, are neighbours and fishing buddies from St Austell. They have come up for the day to check out the scene and claim that their wives and even David's mother know their whereabouts. "We are users of pornography and so is my wife to a lesser degree. It's been tucked under the carpet for long," said David. Paul nodded and said: "I mean it is only recently that I even found out that there was a fetish club in Cornwall."

By now the catwalk show is in full swing with a bride traipsing around in white suspenders. A Page 3 model squeezes by. I spot a few from the raincoat brigade before heading outside. There I overhear a woman on her mobile. "Let me just say it's an eye-opener. Dog collars, dolls, whips. I can't really speak," she says, looking at me. "but it is a real eye opener. You'll enjoy it." And then she tucks her phone away, tightens the belt on her raincoat and walks away.

# Dixons

ALL INCLUSIVE 1 YEAR  
MOBILE PHONE PACKAGE  
NOW ONLY  
**£149.99**

## IDEAL GIFT

- BUY NOW, CONNECT AT CHRISTMAS.
- COMPLETE PACKAGE, INCLUDING PHONE, LINE RENTAL AND CALLS.
- NO NEED TO PAY ANYTHING ELSE FOR A YEAR.

PHONE, CONNECTION AND  
ONE YEAR'S LINE RENTAL

15 MINUTES OF CALLS  
PER MONTH

SAVE OVER **£116\***

NOTHING ELSE TO PAY  
FOR A YEAR

MOTOROLA ORANGE mr30  
DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 150 minutes talktime/40 hours standby time.
- 490 name and number memory.
- Charging time 90 minutes.
- Fax and data compatible.
- Caller identification - see who is calling before you answer.

Was £199.99

PACKAGE PRICE

**£149.99**

PRICE  
CHECKED

\*When compared to 12 months line rental on Talk 15.  
12 x £17.63 = £211.56. Phone £19.99. Connection £35.25.

# Dixons

There's a Great Deal going on

PRICE CHECK  
Every week we check the prices of hundreds of products in the national press to make sure that Dixons Price Check prices can't be beaten.

3 WAYS TO BUY  
350 STORES  
NATIONWIDE  
WEB SITE  
www.dixons.co.uk  
CALL  
24 HOUR ORDER  
HOTLINE  
08000 68 28 68

If you find the same product cheaper locally, please let us know immediately. We will be pleased to refund the difference. Just notify us within 7 days of purchase. The product must be new, complete and available for immediate delivery. Mail order prices excluded.

## Elton's togs draw the cash despite the buttoned purses

'No Shop Day' was perhaps not the most auspicious day for Elton John to sell his clothes. But those at the sale should not feel too bad. At least the clothes were being recycled, Clare Garner points out.

They were not supposed to be getting out their cheque books at all yesterday, but bargain hunters at the Elton John sale in a temporary shop in Piccadilly, London, could not resist a Versace shirt for £25 or a designer tie for just £15.

The notion of a "No Shop Day", which was invented by green organisations to remind us of the excesses of our consumer culture, probably means nothing to Elton. As Robert Key, who organised the singer's sale and has worked with him

for years, said: "He is a great shopper. Elton will go into a store and ask for a particular shirt and then buy it in six different colours."

Indeed, it took him just three years to accumulate yesterday's collection of 10,000 items. The originals cost a total of £2.5m, but secondhand they were going for 10 per cent of their value now. Thus the £6,000 Versace leather suit worn by Elton at the designer's funeral earlier this year was a suit at £600. The £250,000 raised was to go to the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Mike Childs, a senior campaigner at the environmental group Friends of the Earth, which organised events for No Shop Day, was surprisingly easy on Elton. "At least Elton is flogging off his clothes for charity and those people buying them are buying secondhand clothes, which is not a bad thing," he said.

In contrast to Elton's sale, an

installation art piece in south London is offering customers a chance to prove their anti-consumerist credentials. No Shop is part of Friends of the Earth's Fair Share campaign, which focuses on the need to reduce material consumption and pollution to defined ecological limits, and questions whether increasing consumerism can deliver a better quality of life. It "promises everything but sells nothing".

The window of No Shop is full of goods and special offers, but the space inside simply contained images of empty shelves and a single "No Sales Assistant" behind an image of a cash register. Visitors are given a receipt thanking them for "not shopping at No Shop".

No Shop, 131 Lower Marsh, London SE1, is open to the public today, Monday and Tuesday. Other activities will take place in shopping centres today, International No Shop Day.

Advertisement

## Thinking of buying a computer?

Computers are playing an increasingly important part in our lives. But how much should you pay for a system? And how do you know a PC will suit your needs?

Help is at hand! Practical, straightforward and reliable. The Which? Guide to Computers explains all the jargon. It's ideal for home users and small businesses alike and takes you, step by

step, through the buying process. Using real-life situations to highlight common problems, it tells you • what computers can do for you and/or your business • how to avoid costly mistakes, and select sensibly-priced hardware and software that won't be instantly obsolete • how to calculate the true cost of a system • how to get cost-effective user support and maintenance • why 'latest' doesn't always mean 'best' • how to ensure you buy what you need - and

not what the salespeople want to sell you • and much more besides!

This fact-packed book from Which? gives independent, unbiased advice and is essential reading for anyone planning to buy a computer, or who wants to get the most from their existing system. The Which? Guide to Computers costs just £10.99 (P&P FREE), so why not order your copy NOW using the order form below? Full refund if not satisfied.

## Get the facts about HRT

Any woman approaching or going through the menopause today has the option of taking HRT - the biggest (and most controversial) issue in women's health since the advent of the Pill. Understanding HRT and the Menopause arms you with the essential facts to decide if it's right for you. This invaluable guide from Which? will help you weigh up for yourself the pros and cons of HRT. Honest, reliable, informative and highly readable, it looks at many vital issues, including • symptoms and signs of the menopause • managing the menopause with or without HRT • breast cancer and the links between cancer and hormone treatment • osteoporosis • the importance of diet, exercise and stress management • the need for regular screening and health checks • and more besides!

Understanding HRT and the Menopause gives women the opportunity to take control at a challenging time in their lives and make a truly informed, responsible decision about their health. "This vital book is a must for all women" (Harpers & Queen), and it costs just £9.99 (P&P FREE), so why not order your copy NOW using the order form on the right? Full refund if not satisfied.

## Tax-efficient ways of passing on property

Would you like to pass on money and property without wrapping your gifts in an unnecessary tax bill? Then read The Which? Guide to Giving and Inheriting. Easy to understand, and with case histories throughout, the book explains how to use the tax system to increase the value of your gifts, enabling you to plan ahead and control your finances. In fact, "it could be the wisest investment you will ever make" (Irish News).

The guide covers • inheritance tax • capital gains tax • setting up trusts • making use of

covenants • estate planning • making and updating a will • special rules for family businesses • inheritance laws in Scotland • the National Lottery • passing on property. The Which? Guide to Giving and Inheriting is a must for anyone who wants to avoid paying more tax than necessary and could make a big difference to those to whom you give. It costs just £9.99 (P&P FREE), so why not order your copy NOW using the order form below? Full refund if not satisfied.

To: Which?, PO Box 89, Dept SP218, Hertford, SG14 1TB

Please send me the book(s) indicated below, on the understanding that I can return them for a full refund if I am not completely satisfied.

With month(s) of copies required in appropriate box(es) below

☐ The Which? Guide to Computers at £10.99 each

☐ The Which? Guide to Giving and Inheriting at £9.99 each

☐ Understanding HRT and the Menopause at £9.99 each

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ (payable to Which? Ltd)

Card number

Signed  Date

Name Mr/Ms/Mrs

Address

Postcode

I declare that I am not a company or a partnership and that I am not a company or a partnership and that I am not a company or a partnership.

صكذا من المرحل



## Murder case RAF man was impotent

A senior RAF officer accused of murdering his wife over an infatuation with a 21-year-old woman yesterday told a court that he had been impotent after returning from the Gulf in 1991.

RAF Regiment Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker, 46, who is based at RAF Honington, Suffolk, told a jury at Norwich Crown Court that he had had sex "infrequently" between 1991 and 1995 because of the problem.

Tucker denies murdering his wife Carol, 52, at Lackford, Suffolk, on 21 July 1995. Prosecutors say he was infatuated with Dijana Dudukovic - a Serbian interpreter he had met while serving in the former Yugoslavia in the first half of 1995.

Yesterday, Tucker who served as a nuclear, biological and chemical weapons expert during the Gulf conflict in 1990, said his attempts to have sex

with Dudukovic had been "a bit of a disaster".

Yesterday he faced questioning from David Stokes QC, prosecuting. He told Mr Stokes that although he had known Miss Dudukovic since January 1991, their relationship had been nothing special. He said it had only become sexual when he took Miss Dudukovic back to London for a week about a month before his wife's death.

Mr Stokes asked Tucker about a visit he had made to a venereal disease clinic shortly after he returned home on 15 July 1995.

The doctor he saw told the court how Tucker explained that he had last had sex with his Serbian girlfriend two weeks before and had not had sex before that for two years.

Under cross-examination Tucker said his last sexual contact with Miss Dudukovic had been about three weeks before his visit to the clinic.

And he said he had not had sex before that for a longer period than the two years noted by the doctor.

"It is actually more than that [two years]," said Tucker. "When I came back from the Gulf I was impotent. In fact, it had been longer than that."

"Sex had been infrequent since early 1991."

Tucker told the court that he had not expected to see Miss Dudukovic again after leaving Bosnia in mid-July.

But the court heard that he had contacted her by phone two days after returning to England, on the morning of the day his wife died, and again on the day after his wife died.

He had continued to contact her by phone for many months after that, the court had heard. The case continues.



Seeing the funny side: Tory party leader William Hague's speech gets the audience laughing at the National Conservative Women's annual conference in the Queen Elizabeth II centre at Westminster yesterday. Photograph: Rui Xavier

## Guerin suspect jailed for 20 years

A man identified by an arresting garda officer as the killer of crime journalist Veronica Guerin was yesterday jailed for 20 years on drugs trafficking charges.

Patrick "Dutchy" Eugene Holland, 58, also known as "the Wig," with an address at Brittas Bay, Co Wicklow, was cited by Garda Marion Cusack as the person suspected of shooting the reporter in June 1996 when she arrested him at Dun Laoghaire last April.

The trial was held in the non-jury Special Criminal Court, which hears terrorist and criminal cases where jurors could be at risk. Evidence was heard from Charles Bowden, the first person to testify before an Irish court under the new witness protection programme.

Bowden, 33, a former soldier now serving a sentence for drugs offences, ran a cannabis distribution operation on behalf of others who the court ordered should not be named. He said he regularly supplied Holland with 20 to 50 kilos of cannabis

during 1995 and 1996. He also confirmed that he prepared and primed the .357 Magnum revolver, imported with a cannabis consignment in early 1996, which was used to kill Ms Guerin, but had not known the intention was to kill her.

Mr Justice Johnson said it would be dangerous to convict on the evidence of Bowden alone, an accomplice, but cited corroborating evidence from gardai that Holland had said in custody "Look lads, I have my own customers and I am not going to implicate them".

The court heard Holland's nickname was on lists found at a Dublin lock-up garage used in preparing cannabis supplies where 47kg of the drug were found. Holland denied ever receiving cannabis and rejects Bowden's and garda evidence. Holland has convictions dating from 1965 for offences including armed robbery and possession of explosives.

The court refused leave to appeal to the Supreme Court. — Alan Murdoch

## Beckett defends 'blind trust'

Margaret Beckett last night said she would keep a "blind trust" unless Sir Patrick Neill, the watchdog on standards, rules against the practice in his review on party funding.

The President of the Board of Trade defended the blind trust, which helps fund her constituency office, and rejected a call by her Conservative shadow, John Redwood, to follow the example of Cabinet colleagues, including the Prime Minister, to wind it up. Mr Redwood also called on Mrs Beckett to publish the names of her donors to the trust.

Mrs Beckett said on BBC radio: "I use it to employ a member of staff, so if I had to give it up it would be a source of great regret to me because she is a very good and hard-working member of staff."

● Mrs Beckett, a keen caravaner, earlier opened the Caravan and Outdoor Leisure Show at Earl's Court in London and said critics should praise the industry's major contribution to the economy.

"Caravan manufacture is a British success story - 95 per cent of all caravans sold in the UK are British-made," she said.

## Bribes inquiry at Sandhurst

The Ministry of Defence has launched an investigation into allegations that Army instructors at Sandhurst Royal Military College in Berkshire took "huge bribes" from overseas cadets in return for better grades.

Non-commissioned officers at Britain's leading military academy are said to have accepted BMW and Mercedes cars, Rolex watches and foreign holidays. An MoD spokesman confirmed that the Royal Military Police were investigating a "number of allegations raised by some overseas officer cadets". "The issue is in connection with the acceptance of gifts in contravention of Queen's regulations for the Army," he said.

The men are believed to have been taken temporarily into custody before being allowed to go back to work while the investigation takes place.

About 10 per cent of the 600 cadets attending Sandhurst each year are from overseas. In previous years some have given instructors presents after the passing-out parade. But it is alleged that some have made gifts before the parade in the hope of having their grades boosted. — Ian Burrell

EVERY USED LEXUS IS AS GOOD AS NEW  
AFTER ALL, WE DO TURN THE CLOCK BACK.

If H.G. Wells were alive today he'd probably appreciate the Lexus. Advanced engineering means we can go back in time. Each used car up to ten years old, now has a 3 year unlimited mileage warranty. The fact that the benefits of a new Lexus begin again with you when you buy a used one, explains the title Succession. Apart from the warranty, there's a 3 year Lexus Club membership, 3 years RAC Euro cover, Lexus Accident Management Service and a recorded mileage guarantee. But before that, every car has a multi-point check by a Lexus specialist. By the time he's finished, the car is certainly as good as new.



Call 0800 31 31 34 for details of your nearest Lexus dealer  
www.lexus.co.uk

LEXUS  
SUCCESSION LUXURY USED CARS

**ZERO%**

Interest free instalments on  
home and motor insurance

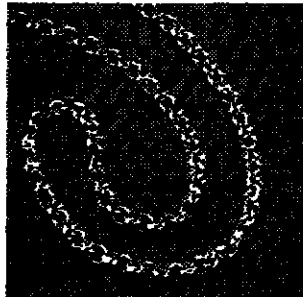
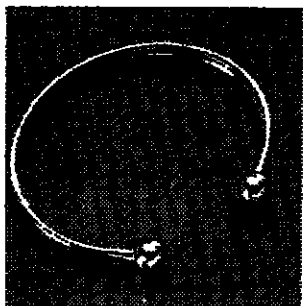
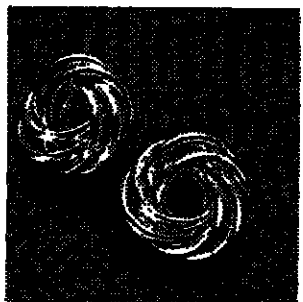
FREE CD WHEN YOU CALL FOR A QUOTE

**0800 333 800**

Lines open 9am-10pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat



Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited. Registered in England and Wales no. 22081.  
Registered Office 60 St. Mary Ave London EC3A 6JZ. Full credit details available on request.

**Argos****Sparkling  
Savings  
this  
Christmas****Save £30****18ct Gold  
Diamond Solitaire  
Ring 25pts  
(204/3292)**Cat. price £279.00  
Cut price **+£249.00****Save £20****9ct Gold  
Solid Belcher Chain  
Guaranteed weight 10g (1/2oz)  
Length 51cm (20 inches)  
(243/6627)**Cat. price £119.00  
Cut price **£99.00****Save over £10****9ct Gold  
Ladies Torque  
Bangle  
(221/1206)**Cat. price £59.99  
Cut price **+£48.49****Save £5****9ct Gold  
Large Knot  
Studs  
(211/8237)**Cat. price £49.99  
Cut price **£44.99**

Use note items marked + have previously been on sale at the same price

**PLUS**Pick up a copy of Argos Plus for lots more savings  
jewellery.**PLUS**Use this voucher to save money on all jewellery  
purchases over £50.00 at Argos this Christmas.**PROM CODE 61326**Argos Distributors Ltd.,  
19-499 Avebury Boulevard, Sutton Gate West, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2NW.**£15 Off**  
when you  
spend £100 or more  
on jewellery**£5 Off**  
when you  
spend £50 or more  
on jewelleryThis voucher is not redeemable for cash and may not be used to  
purchase Argos gift vouchers. Only one voucher may be used at any one  
time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other money off  
voucher. This voucher is only valid against one jewellery transaction  
over £50. This offer does not apply to watches or clocks.

Valid until 24th December 1997.

**Argos**

## Netanyahu: Why the US can't stand him

The rift between the US and Israel is deepening in the wake of the crisis in Iraq. President Clinton blames the Israeli Prime Minister for undermining US influence by reneging on the previous Israeli government's deal with the Palestinians. Patrick Cockburn, in Jerusalem, explains why the two allies are at odds and why it matters.

At one moment their planes were within 200 yards of each other at Los Angeles airport but they never met. Bill Clinton is putting real effort into not meeting Benjamin Netanyahu in order to underline his displeasure at the actions of the Israeli Prime Minister. Instead of the American President, Mr Netanyahu had to make do with a talk with Arnold Schwarzenegger, for whom he expressed deep admiration.

These snubs, more blatant by the week, do not go unnoticed by Mr Netanyahu. "Don't you know, there is a Saddam Hussein of the East," he complained privately, speaking of President Clinton's attitude towards him. "And there is me, the Saddam Hussein of the West." In a fit of pique he told his office to stop trying to arrange a meeting with the President.

Irritation in Washington at Mr Netanyahu's deep-freezing of agreements with the Palestinians has been mounting for months. But it is the renewed Iraq crisis, the most serious challenge to the US in the Middle East since the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, which has convinced Washington in the last few weeks that Israel's defiance is costing it dearly in the Arab world.

The Gulf War left America the predominant power in the region. But when Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, toured the region drumming up support for action against Saddam Hussein this



month she encountered an embarrassing silence. The Doha economic conference in Qatar, originally billed as an important summit between Israel and its Arab neighbours, was a flop. Even Kuwait, which only exists now because of the Gulf War, refused to endorse American military action against President Saddam.

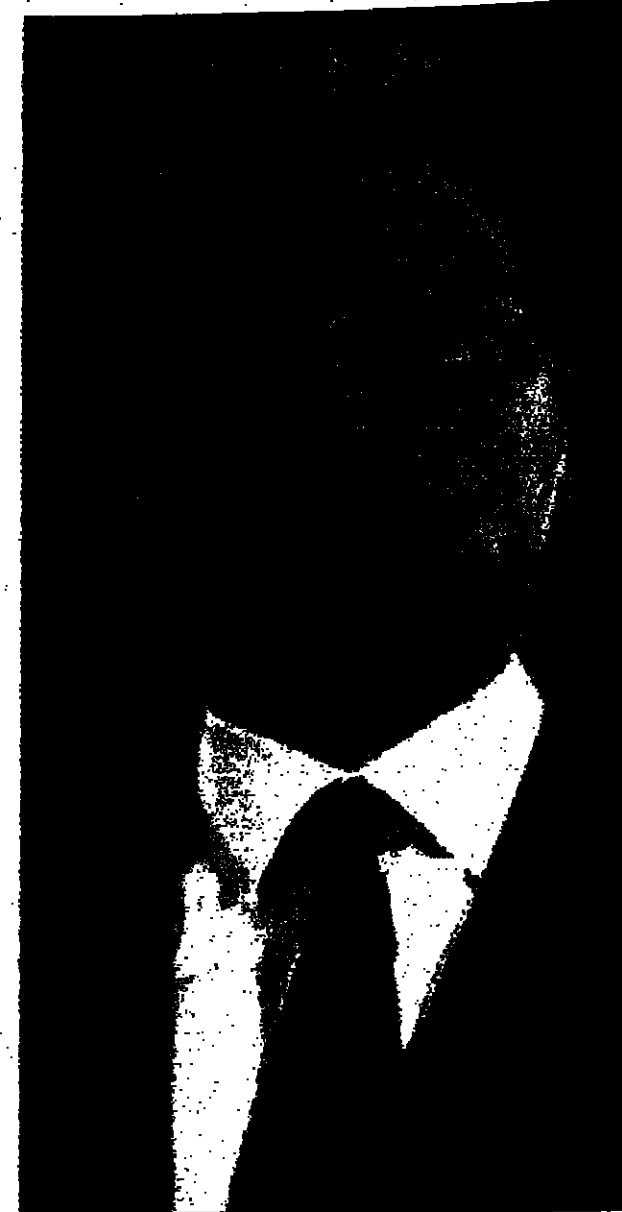
Mr Netanyahu blithely says Mr Clinton is being "naïve" in holding him responsible for eroding America's alliance with the conservative Arab states.

In words expressed privately, but likely to increase Amer-

ican anger, the Israeli Prime Minister added: "Once the first American tank crosses into Iraq, the Arabs will all join in."

Nobody, apart from Mr Netanyahu (and perhaps not even him), thinks this is true. At the same moment as Mrs Albright was failing to win support for the US in the Gulf, Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister, was having a more successful tour, culminating in a visit to Damascus, the first time an Iraqi leader has visited Syria's capital in 17 years.

Is the American grip on the



Face off: Bill Clinton is strenuously avoiding any contact with the Israeli leader, Benjamin Netanyahu, in a bid to force the 'Saddam of the West' to make peace with the Palestinians

Middle East faltering? The policy of so-called "dual-containment" of Iraq and Iran is looking very ragged. After mediating an agreement which led to a return of the US inspectors to Baghdad last week, Russia is once more a power in the region, for the first time since 1990.

But the change can be exaggerated. Moscow wants as much influence as it can get in the Middle East, but not at the price of a confrontation with the US.

Boris Yeltsin's need for American political and financial

support is too great. Even Iraq, in its own way, wants an understanding with the US, with whom it was allied during its war against Iran from 1980 to 1988.

It may be that both the US and Israel are surprised by the course of the latest Gulf crisis because, for once, President Saddam has not over-played his hand. "We're just waiting for him to do something stupid so we can whack him," a senior Pentagon official was quoted as saying a fortnight ago. He may do so, but so far, unlike the Gulf crisis in 1990-91, the Iraqi

leader has shown surprising flexibility. By allowing UN inspectors looking for his non-conventional weapons to return and to enter his palaces he is denying the US a cause around which to rally support.

Mr Netanyahu may think it is unfair for the US to blame him for its difficulties in winning Arab support against Iraq. But he cannot be surprised that President Clinton does not like him. The American leader made strenuous efforts to keep him out of power in Israel in 1996. Immediately after the bus bombings in Jerusalem last year, Mr Clinton organised a conference of world leaders at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt in support of Shimon Peres, the Israeli prime minister who went on to lose the general election.

Mr Netanyahu presumably thinks that, eventually, he can face down the White House. Between one-quarter and a half of the Democratic Party's campaign funds are estimated to come from the American Jewish community. Aid for Israel was held up twice this year - an unheard of action by Congress - but this was opposed by powerful politicians such as Newt Gingrich, the Speaker of the House, some of whose largest donors are Jewish right-wingers.

But Israel's Prime Minister may have miscalculated. In the present crisis, Israel is a strategic liability for the US as it tries to retain its hold over the Middle East.

If Washington truly begins to think of Mr Netanyahu as the "Saddam Hussein of the West", then Israel, for the first time, may come under intense pressure from the US to reach an agreement with the Palestinians.

## Iraq opens palace doors to the West

Iraqi newspapers yesterday said Baghdad hoped a decision to allow foreign experts to check Saddam Hussein's presidential palaces would defuse its stand-off with Washington.

Washington insists that UN inspectors charged with ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction must enjoy unfettered access to sites, while Baghdad says some areas are off limits to the UN Special Commission (Unscm), though other foreign experts will be allowed to visit them.

"Iraq wants to avert an explosion of the situation in the region as a result of America's aggressive escalation," Iraq's ruling Baath party newspaper *al-Thawra* said.

Iraqi media said Tariq Aziz, the deputy prime minister, had sent the UN an invitation for some 117 foreign experts to visit the palaces and presidential buildings to see if they contain any prohibited weapons. The invitations were extended to UN Security Council member states.

*Al-Thawra* urged them "to react positively". But the paper said it expected the US would

try to "prevent the Special Commission and the Security Council from agreeing to the Iraq initiative."

Iraq's Foreign Minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, on Thursday ruled out allowing the current Unscm weapons inspectors in Baghdad to visit the palaces. "No one will be permitted to go there," he said.

Eight teams of UN arms monitors headed for Iraqi sites yesterday for the seventh consecutive day after Baghdad's decision to allow UN inspection teams, including Americans, to resume their work. The official Iraqi news agency INA said that among them was a team of nuclear weapons specialists. The agency quoted a source criticising the teams for doing inspections on Friday, which was a Muslim holiday.

Access to presidential palaces and other sensitive sites has been the main sticking point since the weapons inspections resumed last week.

The weapons inspectors have to give Iraq a clean bill of health before UN sanctions imposed after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait can be lifted.

— Reuters, Baghdad

## Bomb author jailed

A Jewish extremist who wrote a book in praise of Baruch Goldstein, the Hebron mosque massacre gunman, has been jailed for eight months. A Jerusalem magistrate said the book, *Baruch, the Hero* was an incitement to racism.

Michael Ben Horin, the author, was sentenced to eight months for supporting a terrorist organisation, while two men who helped him to write it were fined and given suspended sentences.

Judge Yaakov Tzaban said the three were no different from the Muslim extremists who praise Islamic militant suicide bombers, the *Yediot Achronot* daily said. "The book

turns an act of terror into an act of bravery, and the perpetrator of this act into a hero... a society wanting to prevent terrorism cannot allow such a publication," Judge Tzaban said.

In February 1994, the Brooklyn-born Goldstein turned an automatic rifle on Muslim worshippers kneeling in prayer in the Tomb of the Patriarchs in the West Bank town of Hebron. He killed 29 Palestinians before being beaten to death. The most militant among Jewish settlers have praised Goldstein as a hero, and his grave has become a site of pilgrimage.

— AP Jerusalem

**ROLLING ROCK**  
330 ml bottle  
**40%**  
**OFF A CASE**  
**24 FOR £15.12**  
Equivalent to single bottle price of 63p  
**THRESHER WINE SHOP**  
ADVENTURES. GUARANTEED

Selected stores now open until 10.30pm.

Offer runs from 27.11.97 to 30.11.97 inclusive.

Prices correct at time of going to press. Normal price of 24 bottles £25.20. Available to over 18s only. Offer subject to availability. No further discounts apply including shareholder's discount.



# 13/GERMAN STUDENTS

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

## Europe's new militants: marching for the soft life

Germany's streets are filling again with marching students. But Imre Karacs in Bonn says that, unlike their forebears in 1968, today's protesters lack lofty goals. They are striking to preserve their privileges.

ed the universities for too long. The students hoped this would be remedied in the usual German manner, with the government throwing a little more money in their direction. No such luck. Instead of building lecture theatres and hiring more professors, the authorities are proposing to tinker with only the demand side of the economic equation.

There is talk, or at least whispers, of tuition fees. Plans are afoot to empower universities to weed out entrants and evict laggards prematurely: maybe only five years after the start of their course. And there is even the shocking suggestion that universities should adopt British-style bachelor's degrees, to shorten the time the youth of today spend dreaming among the spires or amid heaps of red brick. On average, German students spend 10 years of their lives at university. They hit the job market just as they encounter the first worrying signs of middle-age spread.

The most powerful wave of student protests to hit Germany for 20 years is spreading. Tens of thousands have demonstrated this week in Berlin, Frankfurt and almost every university town. On Thursday 40,000 rallied in Bonn to vent their fury at the federal government. The strikes, occupations and disruptions are to continue next week, when students will mass on regional capitals.

They have endured cuts for a decade but now enough is enough. A government plan to reform university funding, and tentative hints of a fundamental overhaul of higher education, have opened the floodgates. The problem is similar to that in Britain, only more extreme. In the past 20 years the intake of universities has doubled, while funds to pay for the 1.8 million students have shrunk. Standards have been eroding to such an extent that the decline is seen as a threat to Germany's competitiveness.

"The students have legitimate reasons to protest," said Jürgen Rüttgers, the Education Minister.

"They are lacking books, lecture halls are overcrowded, and there are too many students waiting ... to talk to their professors ... Society has neglect-

ed the universities for too long. Many stay longer, marrying, and taking advantage of perks that include cheap public transport and canteen food, reductions for cinemas, museums and other entertainment and subsidised crèches. Who pays? - 90 per cent of the tab is picked up by regional governments, the rest by Bonn. Grants to cover living costs are scarce. Parents must pay for students' upkeep and the students themselves must make up the shortfall by doing holiday jobs.

Everybody agrees the system is far from perfect. For most university courses, there is one requirement: applicants must pass the *Abitur* at the end of their secondary schooling. Over the years, it has got easier, and so the campuses have filled up. Ad-

ministrators in Bonn hire cinemas hooked up to their lecture halls for over-subscribed lectures. At many biology classes, 12 students get to carve up one rat among them. Christoph Pieper, a 23-year-old student of German and Latin, knows of only one way to create order in this chaos. "We are striking for a better financing of higher education," he said as he hung a banner across the archway of Bonn university's Great Hall.

"There is plenty of money around. The Bundestag has just approved DM23bn for Eurofighter. The universities would need only about two to three billion of that. I admit it is not an entirely satisfactory solution, but it's a beginning."

Mr Pieper is no rabble-rouser, merely a closet con-

servative dissatisfied with the government's reforming zeal. Asked if he wanted to change the world, he was indignant: "No way. This society cannot be changed."

But some students are prepared to consider the possibility that certain things cannot go on.

Michael Shohat, a 23-year-old psychology student, is against the strike, but not because he has any sympathy for the government.

"I understand if we strike about lack of money and resources—that's OK, because the system is really collapsing. What I don't understand is how people expect to pay nothing and yet expect higher standards. There is simply not enough money in this country for that."



Shot down: Students protesting about the money spent on Eurofighter, demanding that some should go on education Photograph: Reuters

## UK provide best lessor

By German standards, Arnd H 27, is precocious. He did his first free long ago and is about to his PhD thesis. Not surprising one considers where he studied. His parents sent him her 15 to learn English and he stay

He remained for a year to please parents and enrolled for sixth for that there was really no choice wanted to do biochemistry. In many, very few universities offer course ... In Britain, every standard university does it."

After three years at Imperial College he had his first degree, two ahead of the brainiest of his G contemporaries. An increasing number of Germans are fleeing to escape crowds, irrelevant courses and herent professors at home: an estimated 10,000 study at British universities and 8,000 in the US and the number of foreigners attracted by G universities is falling.

"Anyone who can afford sends their children to university abroad," said Guido Westerwelle, secretary of the Free Democratic Party. "The rest are stuck with ... lower and far longer terms studying. Hostlers are satisfied with the money they bought in London was recently joined by his brother is studying medicine at

— Imre Karacs

## FREE WINTER CHECK AT HALFORDS

Make sure your car is ready for Winter  
**YOUR FREE WINTER CHECK INCLUDES:**

<b>BATTERY</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>VEHICLE LIGHTS</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>WIPERS and WASHERS</b>
<b>ALTERNATOR DRIVE BELT</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>ANTI-FREEZE</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>TYRES</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>EXHAUST</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>BRAKE FLUID</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Any work required as a result of our Winter Check will be estimated free of charge and without obligation.

<b>MAJOR SERVICE</b> <b>FREE MOT WORTH £29</b> WITH A MAJOR SERVICE □ 'M' Reg. due for MOT this year □ Diesels and Cats welcome □ Free re-test if necessary □ MOT can be taken at any time and on any car	<b>BUY NOW PAY LATER</b> <b>PAY NOTHING FOR 4 MONTHS</b> WHEN YOU SPEND OVER £100 <b>PLUS EXTENDED CREDIT ALSO AVAILABLE</b> <b>APR 34.9% (VARIABLE)</b> Spend over £100 then at the end of the 4 months you can open a Running Account Credit Facility.	<b>TYRE OFFER</b> <b>TYRES FITTED FROM ONLY £9.99</b> All the major brands available for all cars. An additional charge will be made for valves and balancing.
---	---	---

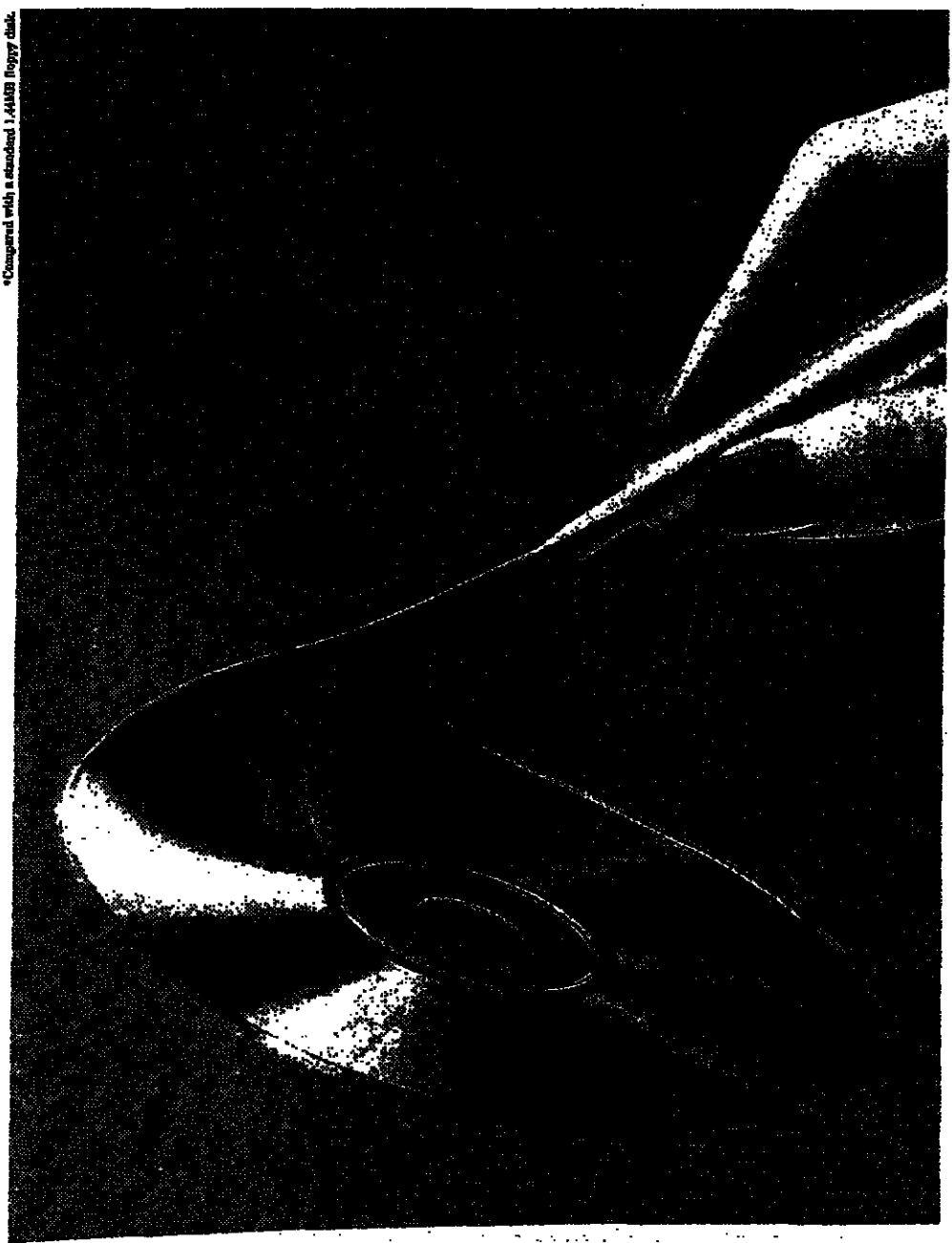
Phone 0345 361361 now to book your FREE Winter Check

- All work carried out by qualified technicians.
- All parts and workmanship guaranteed for 12,000 miles or 12 months\*, whichever comes first.
- The price we quote is the price you pay - including labour and VAT.

**HALFORDS**  
GARAGE SERVICING

WE'RE ABOUT CARS

\*This does not affect your statutory rights. Private vehicles only. \*Minimum price: £254.2. This offer does not apply to manufacturers' services. \*\*Written quotations available on request. Subject to status. Only available to persons over 18 years of age. Opening times and days may vary. Halfords reserves the right to alter services offered. Halfords Ltd., 140-142 Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Halfords West, Redditch, Warwick, B99 0DE.



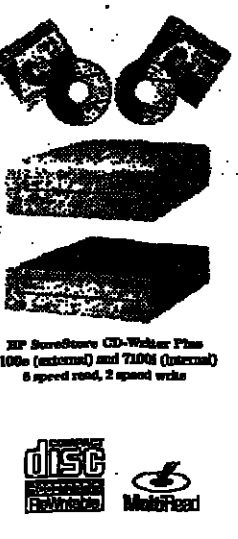
## Move into another dimension—create your own CDs.

Lots of business tools will enhance your performance. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus doesn't just do that - it lifts you into another dimension.

Because now you can collect together the elements of multi-media including sound, graphics, video and data, and create a vivid, sophisticated CD that will impress clients and colleagues alike. File transfer is simplicity itself, using drag and drop, whilst CDs are the ideal way to communicate

with anyone who has a standard CD-ROM. The HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus is a new generation of re-writable drive. It means you can delete or replace files on CD just like a floppy - in fact it's the equivalent of up to 450 floppies! HP offers the complete solution with drive, software as well as a blank HP re-writable CD in the box.

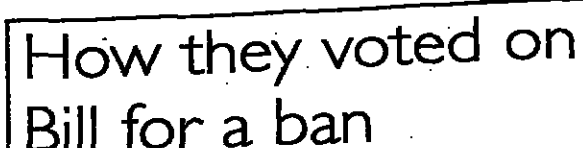
Go for HP SureStore CD-Writer Plus and take a leap ahead. Into another dimension. For your nearest stockist call 0990 474747.







THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
15



**Battleline:** While the debate raged, pro-Bill demonstrators confronted hunt supporters outside the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster. Photograph: Rui Xavis

**ABOUT MR. BACKING THE HUNTING BAN BILL.**

[illegible][illegible]

**LIBERAL DEBATORS RACING HUNTER BAIN BILL.**  
Richard Allen (Sheffield Hallam), Norman Baker (Lewisham), Jackie Ballard (Tunbridge Wells), Thomas Brake (Cardinal and Wellington), Paul Burslow (Sutton and Cheshire), Dr Vincent Cable (Twickenham), David Chidgey (Eastleigh), Brian Cleeves (Weymouth and Portland), John Grieve (Hampshire), John Grieve (Hampshire), John Grieve (Hampshire), Don Foster (Rich), Andrew George (St Ives), Donald George (Edinburgh W), Mike Hancock (Portsmouth S), Dr Brian Hare (Oxford W and Abingdon), Simon Hogg (Southdown N and Bournemouth), Nigel Jones (Chesterham), Charles Kennedy (Glasgow Central), John Leech (Hampshire), John Leech (Hampshire), John Leech (Hampshire), Errol Ross, David Rendel (Newbury), Bob Russell (Colchester), Adrian Sanders (Portsmouth), Andrew Stansell (Hazel Grove), Matthew Taylor (Tynemouth and St Austell), Dr Jeremy Thomas (Rushmore Park), Prof Steven Webb (Northampton), Phil Willis (Hartlepool).

**CONSERVATIVES BACKING HUNTING BAN BILL**  
David Amess (Southend W), David Adkinson (Bournemouth E), Stephen Day (Chesham), Roger Gale (Thames N), John Randall (Uxbridge), John Taylor (Solihull), Sir Teddy Taylor (Rochford and Southend E), Ann Widdecombe (Maldstone and the Weald).

○ NCORHYNCHUS  
MYKISS

The kind of acceleration  
you don't usually experience  
in a luxury car.

# Jeep

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 0800 616159.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

THE JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE RANGE: 4.0 LITRE PETROL LIMITED £19,999; 2.5 LITRE TURBO DIESEL AND 4.0 LITRE PETROL LAREDO £26,499. ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE ON THE ROAD AND INCLUDE ONE YEAR'S ROAD FUND LICENCE (£150 PA). PRICES AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. SEND COUPON TO JEEP INFORMATION SERVICE, FREEPOST 1040, SANDWICH, KENT CT19 9BE

## Spies reveal Pretoria's dirty war on Winnie

Winnie Mandela was portrayed as the victim of a dirty propaganda war at yesterday's Truth and Reconciliation hearing. Mary Braid in Johannesburg says others accused her of being a police informer

Two former spies told the commission that British and American agents secretly helped the apartheid regime to spread rumours that Mrs Mandela was a child-killer, an alcoholic and a drug-user.

South African agents, it was claimed, placed this disinformation about Mrs Mandela in British newspapers.

Paul Erasmus, one of the South African agents, said members of the British Conservative Party's Monday Club were "principal agents" involved in spreading propaganda. His fellow operative, John Louis McPherson, claimed he had been given a list of friendly journalists.

But Azhar Cachalia, the chief ANC appointee in the Department for Safety and Security, said that during the late 1980s - when the murders and violent attacks Mrs Mandela is implicated in, including the killing of Stompie Seipei Mooketsi, 14, took place - many suspected she was a police spy.

"Just about everyone seemed to be aware that there were guerrillas and arms in the Mandela home," said Mr Cachalia, who was part of the leadership of the United Democratic Front, which publicly distanced itself from Mrs Mandela in 1989. He said it was difficult to understand why the

police did not raid her home at the height of the state of emergency. "Did they want to use what was happening around her home to discredit our president [Nelson Mandela] when he was released," he mused, shrugging his shoulders. "There were a million agendas."

A murky picture was further confused by an admission from the Police Commissioner, George Fivaz, that Jerry Richardson, former coach of the "Mandela Football Club" and now serving life for Stompie's murder, was a police spy. He was on the police payroll only two years ago. Mr Fivaz claimed he had provided information about other cases.

Richardson attended this week's hearings wearing the colours of the team that rarely took to the pitch but terrorised Soweto. Mr Cachalia said he thought Mrs Mandela was involved in the murder of Dr Abu Baker Asvat a few weeks after Stompie's murder.

The doctor is believed to have seen Stompie after he was beaten for three days at Mrs Mandela's home. Mr Cachalia said that because Mrs Mandela and the doctor had been close friends he had been unable to contemplate the possibility of her ordering the murder.

Mr Cachalia launched an emotional appeal to Mrs Mandela after a commissioner asked if his testimony was shaped by a "political agenda". The commissioner suggested he might be part of an Indian cabal within the ANC, which is hostile to "Africanists" such as Mrs Mandela. Mr Cachalia said: "Part of me wants to go up and hug you and say 'Let us go away from all this'... But another part of me says we cannot go forward unless there is accountability."



Head cases: Candy Rosa Turcios, a Liberal Party worker, at an information centre in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In presidential and general elections tomorrow the Liberal candidate, Carlos Flores Facusse, is expected to win the top post Photograph: AP

### Japan puts Nasa in space

Japan launched a foreign satellite with its own rocket for the first time yesterday, boosting the nation's satellite-launching technology and chances of developing a lucrative space programme.

The H-2 rocket, carrying a satellite designed to study tropical and subtropical rainfall, lifted off from Tanegashima Space Centre in southern Japan.

The tropical rainfall measuring mission satellite was developed at a cost of 33 billion yen (\$260m) by Nasa, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

—Tokyo (AP)

### Indian coalition collapses

The powerful Congress Party withdrew support from India's ruling coalition yesterday, forcing the Prime Minister to resign in the third government collapse in less than two years.

"We have withdrawn support to the United Front government under Mr Gujral. We have communicated this to the president," Congress chief Sitaram Kesri said, referring to the Prime Minister. Hours later, a spokesman announced Mr Gujral's resignation. Mr Kesri, during a 30-minute meeting with President KR Narayanan earlier in the day, had staked Congress's claim to form the next government.

"We are sure, given a chance, we would be able to prove our majority on the floor of the

house," he said in a letter to the president released to reporters. The President is India's constitutional head of state.

Congress abandoned Mr Gujral's seven-month-old, 14-party United Front government after accusing one of its members of supporting rebels linked to the 1991 assassination of party leader and former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi. Congress and the Front came together in 1996 to keep the Bharatiya Janata Party from forming a government. Mr Gujral is the second prime minister to lead the nation and the United Front, after Congress withdrew support from a previous Front chief deemed ineffective in March.

—AP, New Delhi

### Mob backs Pakistan PM

Government supporters stormed Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday to demand the resignation of Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah for putting Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on trial for contempt of court. Demonstrators climbed over railings as dozens of riot police looked on and did nothing. The demonstrators called on Shah to step down and end weeks of constitutional crisis caused by a showdown between Sharif, the judiciary and President Farooq Leghari. The confrontation has paralysed politics and unnerved financial markets.

Reuters

## Mugabe buys 1,500 farms on the cheap

The Zimbabwean government gazetted yesterday a list of 1,503 farms, owned mostly by white farmers, that it has earmarked to forcibly buy for a controversial peasant resettlement programme.

Political and economic analysts say the drive has severely undermined the southern African state's investment image, and is likely to damage its fragile economy and its chances of securing aid from the West.

The hit list includes company-owned property such as Nuwetsi Ranch Ltd, whose farm of more than 310,000 hectares in south-eastern Zimbabwe is the largest single block to be earmarked for the programme. It also includes ranches in the south-west owned by the Oppenheimer family of South Africa's gold mining group Anglo American Corporation.

The government, which says it will pay only for equipment and improvements but not the land, invited those with "genuine grounds" for objecting to designation of the farms to lodge their complaints by 28 December. The government list contains more than a dozen farms owned by black farmers, although they do not include those of senior government officials, some of whom own several farms.

President Robert Mugabe said he was pressing ahead with the controversial land reform programme because it is crucial to achieving social justice.

The mainly white Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) said in a statement yesterday that it had emphasised to the government that land reform "for whatever reason" must be judged on how it contributes to economic growth, greater food security and job creation and stability.

The government did not say when it would actually take control of the 1,503 farms earmarked. But in October, Mr Mugabe said this would happen "in the year of our Lord 1997".

Mr Mugabe's plans have stirred anger and anxiety in the country's commercial farming heartland, where many say there is already enough land on the open market for the resettlement programme. The government wants to acquire some 5.5 million hectares (13.7 million acres) - about half the land owned by white farmers.

Mr Mugabe, who has ruled since independence in 1980, says that Britain, the former colonial master, should pay for the land which he said was seized by British immigrants when they colonised the country in the 1890s. Britain has refused, arguing the farmers were now Zimbabwean citizens.

—Harare, Reuters

# STAPLES

The Office Superstore

# NO BILLS

WITH VODAFONE'S NEW 'PAY AS YOU TALK' PACKAGE

## £29.99

INC. VAT  
EX. VAT £25.99

**AUDILINE DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE**  
MODEL: TAA 998  
SKU: 277536

## £99.99

INC. VAT  
EX. VAT £85.00

**BT CORDLESS TELEPHONE & ANSWERING MACHINE**  
MODEL: FREESTYLE 1100  
SKU: 277160

## £199.99

INC. VAT  
EX. VAT £170.00

**PHILIPS DECT CORDLESS TELEPHONE & ANSWERING MACHINE**  
MODEL: XALO VOX  
SKU: 288696

**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- COMPACT LIGHTWEIGHT MOBILE PHONE SKU: 289421
- £15 TOP UP - giving 30 days service and £7.50 of calls (up to 2½ hours of off-peak calls).

**NO Contract**  
**NO Connection charge**  
**NO Credit check**  
**NO Monthly bills\***

Simply buy top up vouchers and pay for calls in advance  
Calls from only 5p per minute off-peak  
18 hours battery standby and 90 minutes talk time

\* You must credit your account at least once every 90 days in order to make and receive calls. If you do not top up within 90 days, any unused credit will be lost and no inbound or outbound calls will be allowed.

**FOR YOUR NEAREST STAPLES STORE FREEPHONE 0800 14 14 14**

**LOW PRICE PROMISE**  
OUR PRICES ARE NEVER BEATEN

**OPEN TO TRADE & PUBLIC 7 DAYS A WEEK**  
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-8  
SATURDAY 9-6  
and SUNDAY  
(Open 6 hours, times may vary)

Mobile phone offer available in store only. All items are subject to availability. Visit store for details. \*Call for details.

THE INDEPENDENT

# The Independent and Selfridges Food Hall Gastronomic Event

1st December 1997: 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Is food your passion? The appreciation of good food is now very much part of our culture, and to celebrate, The Independent and Selfridges have joined forces to create a fabulous event at one of London's most prestigious Food Halls. You will have the opportunity to sample exotic and unusual culinary delights, watch the experts demonstrate their skills and question leading purveyors of the finest foods. On arrival you will be greeted with a complementary glass of Louis Roederer Champagne, there is also the chance for you to enter our prize draw with one lucky reader winning a trip to Paris including a meal at Fauchon and first class travel on Eurostar. Every reader will be given a Panettone (worth £6) on departure. We only have a limited number of tickets, priced £10 each so to secure your invitation simply call our Ticket Hotline number - 0171 293 2728.

**Ticket Hotline No: 0171 293 2728**

صكذا من الاصل



# 17/ASYLUM SEEKERS

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
17



Rough justice: Paul, a former resident at Campsfield House Detention Centre. Inmates claim they are subjected to racial abuse

## Synod backs rethink on immigration

We need to rethink our policy on asylum seekers. That was the message from the General Synod yesterday. *Clare Gerner* says they may have their prayers answered when the Government unveils the results of its policy review in January.

The issue of asylum seekers is surrounded by ignorance and fear, and the agenda dictated by racism and xenophobia, the General Synod heard yesterday.

Introducing his private member's motion at Church House, Westminster, the Rev David Houlding, from the London diocese, condemned the "fundamental injustices" in the 1996 Asylum and Immigration Act which removed all benefits from asylum seekers unless they had declared themselves at port of entry into Britain.

Mr Houlding said that, while there would always be those who take advantage of the system or even abuse it, talk of "bogus" asylum seekers was unacceptable. Nor should the recent arrival of refugees in Kent distract from the fundamental issue.

He also urged the Government to deal with the backlog of the 55,000 asylum seekers in Britain who are awaiting a decision. However, the motion,

which was worded under the Tory government, was amended to drop the call for a total amnesty for all these people.

The Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Peter Selby, said the issue was a test "not just of our compassion but a fundamental component of our mission to the country". He warned against the "fear of the stranger" and said Christians must convey the message that "those who entertain strangers may be entertaining angels unaware."

Last week Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, gave a speech to the Refugee Council promising that Labour was bringing a "new spirit of openness" to the asylum issue. He promised that in January Labour would be announcing "policies and practices which are well-informed, properly considered, and founded in reason and principle."

But Mr Houlding remains unconvinced, saying: "there has been no clear indication that they will repeal the Act or that they will restore the right to benefit for asylum seekers."

The final motion, which was backed unanimously, expressed the Church's continuing concern about the effects of British asylum, immigration and nationality law. It welcomed the Government's commitment to a "fairer, firmer system" and called for a law which is "humane and non-discriminatory, and which enjoys the confidence of all our communities."

## Britain's four-letter welcome for the frightened

Britain treats many asylum-seekers as criminals who deserve both punishment and humiliation. Steve Growslow talks to those at the sharp end who still hope that things might change.

In the visitors' reception area of Campsfield House - just inside the high perimeter fence, topped by double rolls of razor-wire - a printed poster proclaims Group Four's code of conduct with regard to the detainees. This includes the commitment to be "courteous, impartial, and free of racial bias".

Curious, then, that "fuck you" is a form of address frequently used by the private security guards, when answering detainees' questions. Odd, too, that African asylum-seekers say they are told: "This isn't a black country", when they ask for an explanation of why they are being held behind bars.

Campsfield briefly found itself back in the headlines earlier this year when inmates rioted. According to the official version, the "premeditated" riot showed the violent tendencies of the inmates. But according to detainees' accounts, the riot was the culmination of a series of provocations by the guards.

Whatever the truth of the events behind this summer's riots, it is clear that the purpose-built detention centre - a two-storey red-brick building, tucked away along a quiet Oxfordshire country road - does little to suggest that foreigners might be welcome. The 200 inmates have committed no crimes. And yet, the repeated frisking of all visitors and the long list of prohibited items (cig-

arettes and phonecards are among the few items that you are allowed to bring in) are just one reminder that the treatment of Campsfield detainees would be little different if they were drug-smugglers or thieves.

Officially, the inmates of Campsfield (which opened as a detention centre in 1993) are behind bars because they are perceived as being at risk of absconding. In reality, one important purpose seems to be merely to discourage others - at a weekly cost of hundreds of pounds per person. From the Home Office's point of view, the more asylum-seekers who can be persuaded that Britain is not a pleasant place to be, the better.

For some, the risk of returning home is considerable. Sylvia comes from Ogoniland in Nigeria - the native region of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, executed amidst international protests in 1995. Sylvia's parents were both the victims of political murder. Her sister was raped, and she was attacked. The political context is clear: several members of the family were active in an Ogoni movement which displeased the authorities. Sylvia, who was studying information technology, describes the events in a deliberately steady voice, with only an occasional tremor. She now needs constant medical treatment, related to stress. She is convinced that she would be a target if she returned.

Complainers are routinely punished. Newly released detainees, and those still at Campsfield, say that asking questions immediately gets you moved from the relative comfort of Campsfield into a conventional prison. The riot in August began with a trivial spark: the transfer to prison of a detainee who had complained that inmates were not allowed

to watch television. "Every day they abuse you and swear at you," says a recently released inmate.

Many at Campsfield give the impression that the spirit has been beaten out of them. Sylvia's uncle recently told her: "Come back - even if it is to die. Better to die at home than to be in prison there." Critics believe that the official policy-makers would regard that as a kind of success: it would unambiguously convey the message that the UK is not a welcoming destination.

Hakim, a former Algerian policeman, talks of the political violence in his home country that is now encouraged by the authorities themselves, and which persuaded him to leave. "If you don't kill, you are killed." He argues that if his case were being considered while he was living outside, then he would feel more like a human being. "How could I abscond?" he asks. "I've nowhere to go."

Paul, an Angolan recently released from Campsfield, argues that the detention centre is intended to be as depressing as possible. "It's harder than at home. They're trying to kill you bit by bit. Your world is the limit - the borders of Campsfield are your borders." He talks of the casual, built-in racism of the system. "When I tried to say something, they would treat me as though I am from the bush. They would say: 'You deserve this treatment'."

Immigration policy is full of problems without solutions. Those countries which offer a politically better life usually offer a materially better life, too. It is therefore difficult to disentangle the issues of economic and political asylum. The anti-asylum lobby argues that they are only here in search of more money. The pro-asylum

lobby suggests that asylum-seekers are only here because of political freedom. In reality, the two inevitably overlap. There are few Vaclav Havels in the world today - those who selflessly work for their country to be less totalitarian, whatever the cost. Most are keen to escape for a more complex variety of reasons - including the fear of political violence and civil war.

If they are lucky, those reasons are compelling enough for them to be allowed to stay in Britain; if they are unlucky, the fact that they might lose their jobs or their lives if they return home is considered to be merely incidental.

Either way, critics suggest that there is no good reason why the ritual humiliation should continue of those who hope against hope that they will be al-

lowed to stay. The existing policy has what one regular visitor to Campsfield calls a "completely arbitrary" character, where the quality of mercy is severely strained. Annette Hyder, who works with released detainees in Oxford, notes that the depressions are made worse by uncertainty. "With a prison sentence, at least you have an idea of how long it's for. At Campsfield, you know nothing."

## THE OFFENDERS

Condensation and Dampness - these are the enemies within, and the trouble they can cause inside your home can be very expensive to remedy.

## CONDENSATION

Streaming windows, pools of water on sills, peeling wallpaper and mould spots are just some of the most obvious miseries these vandals can inflict on your home.

But there is one really effective way to defend your home - the Ebac Hornedry dehumidifier.

## DAMPNESS

Just one Ebac Hornedry can protect your home and make it feel warmer and more comfortable. The Ebac Hornedry comes in a range of finishes designed to fit into your home and is quiet and economical to run.

## MOULD

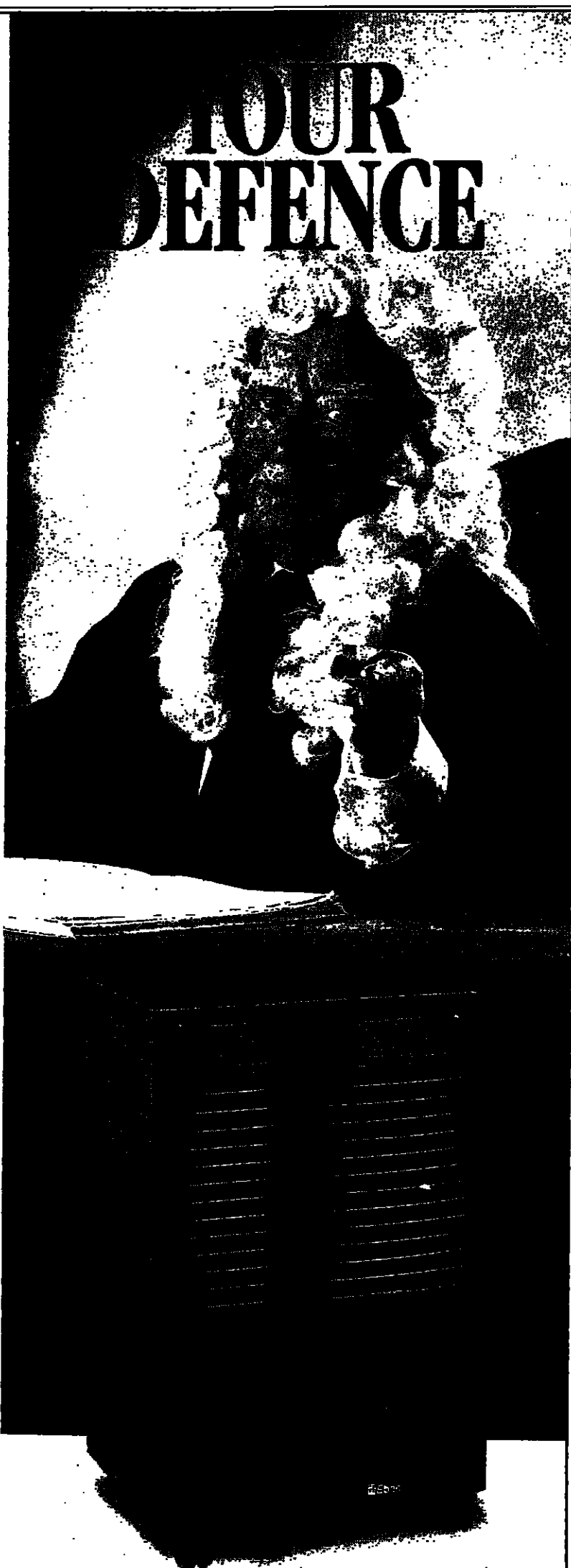
To get all the evidence call Ebac on 01388 602602 or write to Ebac Ltd, Bishop Auckland, DL14 9AL



Europe's best selling Dehumidifiers

Available from: Alders, Apollo 2000, Comet, Currys, Euronics, Electricity Plus, Focus DIY, Homebase, House of Fraser, John Lewis Partnership, Miller Bros., Northern Electric, Northern Ireland Electricity, Seaboard, Selected Co-ops, Scottish Power Lifestyle Plus, Tempo Electrical and Computer Superstores and all good electrical retailers.

For your Nearest Stockist Call 01388 602 602  
enquiry@ebac.co.uk



STAY IN TOUCH • STAY IN POCKET

**NO BILLS!**

**SAVE £10**  
INSTINCT PLUS  
was £49.99  
NOW ONLY  
£39.99  
PLUS FREE LOTTERY RESULTS

► NO CONTRACT  
► NO MONTHLY BILLS EVER  
► NO CONNECTION CHARGES  
► JUST BUY THE PAGER

PAGEONE  
**Minicall PAGERS**

Pagers from £39.99 available at Argos, The Link, Dixons, Currys Superstores, Comet, Indes, and Lewis Partnership, Plasmac, Tandy, Staples, Glaxo Office World and other PageOne authorised dealers.

Further information FreeCall **0500 505 505**

[illegible]



# 19/NAZI GOLD

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
19

## Cook wants loot to go directly to the survivors

**Robin Cook wants to use £40m of gold bullion in the vaults of the Bank of England to compensate victims of the Holocaust and their families. At present, 15 governments whose gold reserves were pilfered during the war want the money. Our Correspondent reports from Warsaw.**

A bleak siding at Umschlagplatz, near the centre of Warsaw, was the last sight of freedom for 300,000 Polish Jews. From this spot between 1942 and 1943, they were rounded up, loaded into cattle trucks and transported to Auschwitz.

In biting wind, standing at the same desolate site yesterday, the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, laid a wreath to honour the Warsaw Ghetto victims, to mourn what he called the "tremendously tragic pointless waste of so much human life".

He also pledged to press the international community to "set the record straight" and end the wrangling which has denied Holocaust survivors and other Nazi victims the right to know what happened to billions in

The three-day conference would have to bring "all the facts into the open," he said. "Those who suffered so, yet still survive, deserve to know the full truth."

About 240 delegates from the 41 countries and a number of Jewish organisations will be attending the Nazi-gold conference in London.

The stated purpose of the conference is historical. It will examine where gold looted by the Nazis during the war came from and what happened to it.

It will review what has already been done to make good the losses suffered by countries and to make restitution to individuals. And it will examine the case for further compensation.

Almost \$4bn of gold looted by the Nazis and recovered by the Allies after the war has been handed back to occupied countries such as Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg whose gold reserves were looted by the Germans.

Some five tonnes of the recovered gold pool - less than 2 per cent - remains in the Bank of England, worth around £40m.

It is this symbolic amount that Britain wants to see handed over for the benefit of individual survivors and their families.

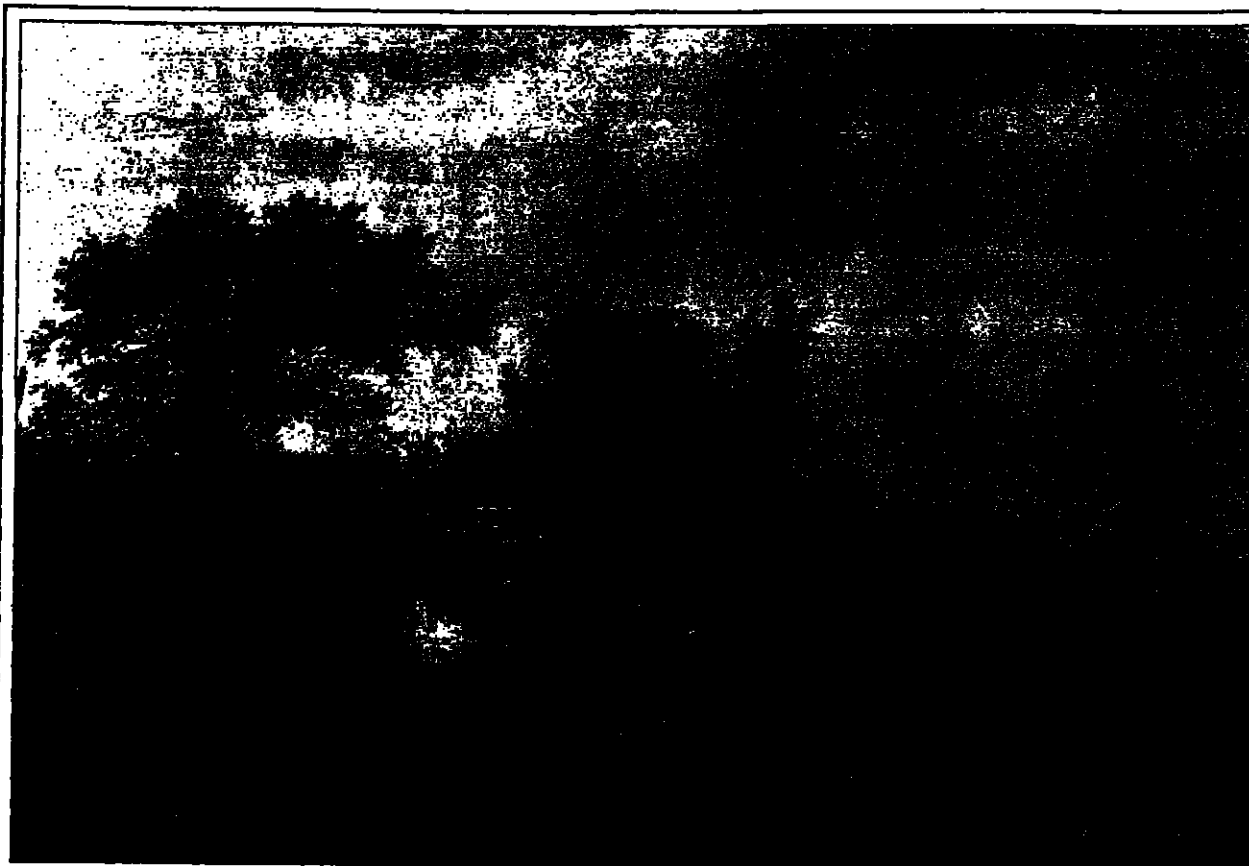
While 15 countries have laid claim to the remaining gold, the proposal from the three - Britain, France and the US - which made up the Allied Tripartite Gold Commission after the war, is that governments should relinquish their demands and agree that the money should instead go to individual victims.

Foreign Office research has concluded that of the gold held in the Bank of England at least some must be private assets, in other words smelted-down gold teeth and items of jewellery taken from victims. Allied forces found boards of gold stashed near the concentration camps.

"There is a strong likelihood that some personal gold, including teeth and jewellery, were mixed up with monetary gold," a Foreign Office spokesman said. British officials said the Government would be appealing to the goodwill of participants at the conference rather than on the basis of any legal evidence on the ownership of what remains. "This is a moral question: we have money for distribution, the remaining survivors are getting older, so the next few years will be the last chance to deal with it during their lifetimes," said a spokesman. A minor setback is that a report on British policy towards enemy property frozen in Britain at the end of the war is not yet complete and will be published after the conference. It has been suggested that some assets remain in British banks which could and should have been returned to victims of Nazism. And one official warned yesterday that the conference should not be seen as a "quick fix". "At least 10 years' minimum work is needed on an international scale before these questions are resolved."

Today some £40m still remains to be distributed. Britain has proposed that the remaining gold be used to set up a fund to compensate individual Holocaust victims and their families, particularly those who so far have received little or no compensation for their suffering.

But the Foreign Secretary also called on participating countries, which include the Swiss and other neutrals whose banks are thought to have hoarded vast amounts of money deposited by Jews before the war, to "set the record straight".



## Old Master painting may be handed back

If the Nazis stole a valuable 17th-century painting during the Second World War, it will be returned or donated to a museum, the owners said after it was withdrawn from auction.

Peter Henle, son of the German collector Guenther Henle, said in a letter to the London branch of Sotheby's that his family would look for the victim and return the painting if it was stolen.

It was to have been auctioned at next week. The letter was released to *The Boston Globe*, which first reported the painting's dubious ownership background. Should the victim turn out to be Jewish with no descendants, the letter said, the painting, *A dune landscape with two figures by a fence* (left), by Jacob van Ruisdael, would be donated to "an appropriate museum or gallery in Israel."

If no evidence of Nazi looting exists and no victim can be found, the family would meet again "to settle the disposition of the picture." *The Globe* said Sotheby's listed the painting with a notation showing it had been acquired for a museum Hitler planned to build in the Austrian city of Linz.

Guenther Henle, an industrialist and political architect of the post-war Christian Democratic government in Germany, bought the painting in 1961 from the Amsterdam dealer Pierre de Boer, who helped the Nazis obtain 300 paintings during the war.

Ori Soltes, director of Washington's National Jewish Museum, said the Henles' effort "is as correct as one could hope for, and reflects a sensitivity for rapprochement."

AP - Boston

## We'll look after you when you need hospital treatment,



Nearly 60 years of experience

It's perhaps not surprising that the company concerned with giving you the best possible care has been around for a long time. PPP healthcare has been providing specialist healthcare services for nearly 60 years.

Today, we are one of the UK's largest healthcare companies, providing cover to over 2 million people.

Last year, we paid out an average of over £1.6 million in claims every working day.

Ask for your quotation now without obligation

Why not find out how affordable PPP healthcare can be? Ring us now for a personal quotation, or complete and return the coupon: you'll be under no pressure to take out a plan.

Remember we'll send you a Free Parker Pen with your quotation. And when you take out a plan, we'll also give you your first month's cover free.

You'll be covered for all new medical conditions which arise after the start of your plan. And we guarantee you won't have to take a medical examination when you apply.

So ask for your personal quotation today. After all, why risk a painful wait for any treatment you might need, when you could guarantee yourself immediate access to a quality private hospital, at such an affordable price?

so you can arrange treatment straight away and maximise your chance of a full and speedy recovery.

In addition to your Health Check, we will also pay for you to have an Eye Test every year.

You can enjoy the peace of mind of quality cover with PPP healthcare from

Only PPP healthcare can give you all this...

HEALTH CHECK after two years and every two years after that on most plans.	✓
£100 CASH TAX-FREE per night spent as an NHS patient, up to £2,000.	✓
24-HOUR HEALTH INFORMATION LINE direct to qualified medical professionals, 365 days a year.	✓
NEARLY 60 YEARS' EXPERIENCE of providing quality healthcare.	✓
ANNUAL EYE TESTS worth £15 each year on most plans.	✓
ALL BILLS SETTLED DIRECT so you're not out of pocket.	✓
YOUR PERSONAL ADVISORY TEAM to help with any query or claim.	✓

Health Information Line. You can call free of charge at any time of the day or night, and speak in confidence to our team of health professionals - including nurses, midwives and pharmacists - about any health-related matter that concerns you.

It may be something that can be dealt with in a single phone call, such as a query about a medicine or the address of your nearest open chemist. Or we might follow up your call by sending you more information if you wish.

We have access to the largest electronic medical library in Europe, with fact sheets on a vast variety of medical topics, and we can put you in touch with many different health organisations.

### Regular Health Checks and Eye Tests

Another way we look after you even when you're well is with a confidential Health Check on most plans, after you've been a PPP healthcare member for two years, and every two years after that.

This gives you valuable reassurance if you are in good health. Or it could help diagnose any problem in its early stages -

around £15 a month. That's less than 50p a day! So why not ring PPP healthcare now, on 0800 33 55 55, for your free personal quotation?

We'll also send you a Free Parker pen with our compliments - yours to keep whatever you decide.

£100 cash per night if you use an NHS bed

You never know when you might need to be admitted to hospital for treatment in an NHS bed - particularly in an emergency. If that should happen, we'll pay you £100 cash for every night you

## Lenin's Swiss bank account discovered

Swiss bank officials sifting through dormant accounts have made an unexpected discovery. Among those not claimed since the Second World War lies an account in the name of Vladimir Lenin, containing the princely sum of 12.90 Swiss Francs. According to yesterday's *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, this Mr Lenin is the very same man who was later to rise to world fame as Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. The revolutionary leader lived in Zurich until April 1917, when German agents bundled him onto the train heading for Petrograd. The rest, as they say, is history. Lenin had opened his savings account with the Zürcher Kantonalbank shortly before that fateful journey. It was from this account that he was to pay his membership dues to the local branch of the Bolshevik party.

In his hasty departure, he took the party with him, but not the account, whose contents have been underpinning Swiss capitalism ever since. One of Lenin's nieces is now claiming the loot, including interest.

—Imre Karacs, Bonn

Reply today for your no-obligation quotation and FREE Parker Pen and receive one month's FREE cover when you take out a plan.

Call Free 0800 33 55 55

8am-8pm weekdays, 9am-1pm Saturdays. Calls may be recorded. One pen per household only.

SEND FOR A FREE NO-OBLIGATION QUOTATION NOW TO: PPP healthcare, FREEPOST, PPP house, Upper Road, East Sussex BN21 1RL. No stamp is needed.

(Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) Initials \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ (Important: we cannot give you a quotation without this date.)

Name of other adult to be included \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children under 21 to be included \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a current healthcare policy, please give your renewal date \_\_\_\_\_

Occasionally offers from carefully selected companies may be made. If you would prefer not to receive this service, please tick ☐ REP: 6417

PPP healthcare there to support you



Will they get us to the wedding on time? Forget France, the assembled Complicite company chose to gather at Audley End instead

Photograph: Stephen Vaughan

## One wedding and, luckily, no one's funeral

Theatre de Complicite are Britain's leading 'physical theatre' company. Who better to bring John Berger's novel *To the Wedding* to the airwaves? Roger Elsgood, producer of tomorrow night's Radio 3 version, kept a diary of their work in progress.

John Berger is having a thought and, my word, it's a massive one. He's wandering around the room clutching his cranium, as if he's frightened to let it go, holding on to his head with an intensity that matches the process going on inside. I've seen this happen before but, when it occurs, it's always spectacular. I stand and stare, amazed at this conspicuous display of creativity. He's trying to solve a problem, his problem, our problem: how to re-create his novel *To the Wedding* as a drama for radio.

It's early March. The first workshop day. We're in an RSC rehearsal room in Clapham – a room big enough to try out chariot racing. Earlier that day, John had Eurostared in from Paris with an enormous basket of cherries – "picked from the garden this morning". Waiting to work with him are Lilo Baur (Lucie, in the last Berger/Complicite collaboration, *The Three Lives of Lucie Cabrol*), Katrina Carlidge (fresh from starring in Mike Leigh's *Career Girls*),

a clutch of Complicite actors, director Simon McBurney, co-adaptor Mark Wheatley and me. I can feel a creative charge in the air and almost hear the distant rustle of expensive leaps of the imagination.

Our first major problem is that both John and Simon want to change the character of the narrator. They feel that a blind Greek *tama* seller is not what is wanted. But what is? Sitting around the table, we kick around a few ideas punctuated by several longeurs, a few coughs, and no solutions. It's then we become aware of John circling the room thinking. He's on another planet, orbiting with his intellect, no longer aware of the place, the time, us.

Eventually he lands. He's back, only he's talking to himself. "I mean... [long pause] the narrator has to be a... [pause] – a river! The Po! The longest river in Italy!" Now, why didn't we think of that!

Having made three previous programmes with John, I knew it could be like this, but having never worked with Complicite before, I had no idea of the turns this production would take before it was finished. It was also the first time they had worked as a company for radio. Complicite has built a reputation on the triumphal physicality of its stagings: the hand-held bridge of bamboo poles the cast fashioned in their recent RNT production of Brecht's *Caucasian Chalk Circle*, created in seconds yet robust enough to allow Juliet Stevenson to walk across;

the breathtaking interplay with the set that characterised *Lucie Cabrol*; the involvement by all the cast seemingly at all times: the insistence on teasing out ideas, testing things. Testing me.

Several months later, I found myself at 10 o'clock at night with a bunch of actors on the beach at Priton-on-Sea, waiting for Mick Barnfather to run naked into the North Sea. The mere fact of this being radio in no way inhibits the Complicite approach to physical theatre. Mick has been dreading this moment all day and as he waits for Simon's "Action!" even the shingle is shimmering. Meticulously, no re-takes are required. The bad news is that, getting dressed afterwards, he can't find his watch. We borrow a torch from a Frinton night-fisherman, who asks us not to shine it on the water – "the fish don't like it". (The fact that they don't take too kindly to being hauled out of the water and bashed over the head with a cricket bat doesn't seem to worry him.) This unscripted surreal drama is brought to a sad conclusion when we fail to find Mick's watch. The wine-dark sea has claimed it, a gift from his father and the only casualty of a very long day that began 50 miles away at Audley End House, where we recorded the wedding scenes with 35 Complicite actors – the largest gathering of the company for many years.

In the same way that Complicite make strange things happen, strange things happen to them. For weeks prior to the recording, Simon and Judith Dimant, Complicite's administrative producer, have been trying in vain to cast Gino, the Italian who wants to marry Nino. Good Italian actors are hard to find in London in July – they're all in Italy, if they have any sense – and Judith is struggling. Sandro Mabbellini, a student from Florence, once saw a Complicite show and was impressed. He thought, while he was in London, he should get himself on their mailing list. With nothing better to do, he went and rang their doorbell. "Er, 'ello, I am, er, a student..." the Complicite intercom crackled with a distinctly Italian accent. "A drama student?" "Yes, I read English OK?" "Yes, I read English OK?" And so Sandro Mabbellini walked in off the street and into a leading role with Complicite. He couldn't believe his luck. Neither could we. The perfect Gino.

South-west France: a hot August night. Not Neil Diamond – and no Complicite. The original plan was to record the wedding scenes in the long quiet field behind the house. But that was just a plan and, if working with Complicite means anything, it means plans are made for changing. I get a phone call from Simon, who is working on the script with John in the Alps. They aren't happy. The script isn't ready. Complicite are not coming. Simon tells me that he wants this production to be one which, on our deathbeds, we can all look back on as something to be proud of.

I agree. But this is going to cost big money. The budget's going into orbit. I use the time to record background material. We need the sound of the motorbike that Nino's father Jean rides across France and Italy to the wedding. "Nothing less than 1000cc," said John on the phone. Outside a café in a tiny village, a gift from the gods, a 1250cc V-Max Yamaha. "Oui," said Bernard, at 42 a seasoned Yamaha man. "BBC? Bien sûr."

After doing the easy stuff – stops, starts, slow coming – Bernard takes us to a long, hot road like somewhere in *Easy Rider* for the big take, the high-speed pass. We stop at a wayside garage and he explains that he will go to a point out of sight, wait for a gap in the traffic and then – "à l'attaque!" As he vanishes, we set up a DAT machine by the roadside with John Hunt, our sound designer, holding a mike on a fishpole. This has a miraculous effect on passing motorists, who assume we're a speed trap. We take great pleasure in watching a succession of sudden rear brake lights going on. Bernard disappears into the heat haze and we wait. A tiny yellow light appears in the distance. At 225 kph, he's up and at us and out of sight in no time, man and machine as one, like John in Clapham, in a world of his own.

We need to re-create a party in Grenoble circa 1970. Jane, our French fixer, has come up with a willing troupe of local amateur actors who, for a buy-out of supper and as much wine as they can drink, are prepared to party for us. Amateurs they

may be but they insist on a full workshop first. Our neighbour, Michel, catches the mood and gives an impromptu seminar. We hear "Marie Quant... le Rollin Stones... Alexandre Dubchek... 'pples" punctuating his French. The young aspirants catch on as easily as he punches up the past and in no time they are able to transport us to swinging Grenoble. A great take, but one that eventually went to wherever digital sound bytes go when they are deleted. Around 1am our guests begin to leave. Last out is Michel, who five minutes later is back to tell us that our actors, fuelled with party spirit, have turned their car into a ditch. We go to their help and, as we get closer, see the moonlit lane strewn with a carnage of bodies. It's a full 10 heart-stopping seconds before we realise that the local thespians have used the opportunity to impress us with their acting skills by workshoping everyone's worst nightmare.

The Complicite approach is proving contagious. Back in London, late September, and everything is finally recorded. In the BBC Maida Vale Studios, not only has Simon got a great sound designer to work with, he's also got the full might of the BBC Radiophonic Workshop. For a director, this is like Christmas and Hamleys rolled into one. Delivery deadlines pass, clocks tick and bills mount. Simon edits on. The result is... out of this world. Listen for yourself. *To the Wedding*, 7.30pm tomorrow, Radio 3

### THE WEEK ON RADIO

ROBERT HANKS

## Auntie Beeb's in a radio daze

If the BBC was a person, it would have severely strained shoulder-muscles from the amount of time it spends patting itself on the back. You probably thought you'd seen the end of the splurge of self-congratulation that accompanied the Corporation's 75th anniversary, but the nostalgia drags on and on. This week alone, Radio 2 has offered *From the Editor's Postbag* on Sunday, an hour-long selection of letters to the *Radio Times* with humorous links by Barry Took, and, on Wednesday, the first instalment of *Auntie's Family Album*, in which minor celebrities (Bill Oddie, for heaven's sake) select favourite BBC moments.

Listening to these was an extremely irritating experience, not so much because of anything they contained (Bill Oddie apart) but because the whole mood seems so out of key with the atmosphere at the BBC. Just the title of *Auntie's Family Album* sends the teeth on edge: why don't they call it "Please, please, love us, we're ever such a nice, cuddly broadcasting corporation and not at all a soulless bureaucracy that has lost touch with

its *raison d'être*" and have done with it? Apart from the fact that the billing would take up too much space in the *Radio Times*. At the moment, doom and gloating hang about the doors to Broadcasting House like a couple of psychotic night-club bouncers. Radio 4 producers have recently heard the results of this autumn's "selling round" – the first time they have had to "sell" programme ideas to the new commissioning editors (who are, you recall, each responsible for a different time of day). Under the new structure, several producers, including some of the BBC's most distinguished names, have sold no programmes at all; the fact that the bad news is now spread by e-mail hasn't increased their sense of the corporation's cuddliness.

Horror stories abound: one producer is supposed to have proposed a feature on Rimbaud and got back the answer "Who's Rimbaud?" Kate Rowland, head of drama, is rumoured to have been told by one of the new editors that he would never have commissioned *Spoonface Steinberg* – probably the most popu-

lar radio drama in the last quarter of a century – but "some things slip through the net". The best story I've heard has Producer A approaching Producer B: A was supposed to be travelling with Andy Kershaw to some war zone, but his editor was worried the project was dangerous, and he wanted B's advice. B said he didn't think anybody was likely to get killed; and A said, "No, you don't understand: the editor is worried that Kershaw might be dangerous – he thinks he's a bad influence."

Kershaw certainly does his damndest. He turned last week's *Pick of the Week* (Fri/Sun, R4) into an hour-long snipe at the BBC's management – for axing *The Afternoon Shift*, for clobbering Mark Radcliffe out of the Radio 1 breakfast slot, for ignoring the virtues of the World Service (a much better 24-hour news channel than the one they've just set up), for spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on a logo redesign any 11-year-old could have done in 10 minutes on his PC. I don't always admire Kershaw's taste, but his courage is admirable.

## Cultures clash in a Hispanic kasbah

New European Writers  
Royal Court, London

The Royal Court's New European Writers' Season, which brings the imagination to places and modes of feeling not normally encountered much in the English theatre, *Bazaar*, by the talented young Spanish dramatist David Planell, deposits us in the shop of one of Madrid's immigrant Moroccan community and dramatises the cross-generational tensions over cultural integration via a crackpot scheme to win a *You Have Been Framed* TV competition that involves re-shooting a faked version of a real-life biking accident.

Altogether more dryly comic and directed with a droll, ironically paced stylism by Mary Peate, Christophe Pellet's *One More Wasted Year* is a wintry Gallic shrug of a play that takes a threesome of café-haunting twentysomethings on a journey into an indifference arguably worse, in its dull, echoing emptiness, than despair.

Around these two full stagings, a series of rehearsed readings has included a fascinating

swallowing a whole row of dictionaries of up-to-the-minute "sart London" street-cred – a relentless register not, I suspect, intended by the original.

Rendered into agile, less attention-seeking English by John Clifford, Roxana Silbert's enjoyable staging of *Bazaar* illustrates the tricky problems of performance protocol. As the 55-year-old Moroccan shop-owner whose desperate desire to become an honorary Spaniard is questioned by his newly arrived, differently minded nephew, Nicholas Woodeson offers an object lesson in how to evoke the accent and gestures of a member of a disadvantaged cultural minority in a way that is alive to the undignified tragedy of the man's position but which also brings out the underlying human dignity. What a great Styloek he would make.

With Adrian Edmondson as the white-trash Spaniard who gets increasingly injured faking the accident, things go slightly astray. He produces riffs of extremely funny acting, but you can't help feeling that his Spanish counterpart would



glimpse of how French theatre responded to the aimlessness of the 1980s in Xavier Durringer's *A Desire to Kill on the Tip of the Tongue*, a play that focuses on a group of discontents outside a discotheque who are set further at odds by the professional wind-up merchant in their midst.

Using British actors, translators and directors, the whole season is a fascinating exercise in finding, for a home audience, equivalencies (where they exist) of idiom, acting, production style and cultural context. The successes and failures are revealing. To my ear, Mark Ravenhill's version swamped the very fine Durringer piece: the characters all sound as if they

have more of a false macho front than Edmondson, whose squinty-eyed, runty stage persona is about as high on testosterone as Stan Laurel. The character is weak but surely not as transparently so as here.

The most successful piece is *One More Wasted Year*, which boasts a wonderful performance from the lanky, charismatic Paul Bettany. He has a quality of Edmondson's sidekick, Rik Mayall, about him but a range that can extend to tragic desolation. The experience of watching this beautifully nuanced staging is like being fed a slither of *tarte au citron* in progressively more poison-spiked instalments.

Paul Taylor

## Who says that still waters run deep?

Ocean  
Belfast Festival

Poignantly billed as Merce Cunningham's last collaboration with John Cage, this large, peculiar, part-aleatory artefact (whose first staging, in 1994, Cage did not live to see) was developed from a set of "starting conditions" laid down by the composer before his death: the title, 90-minute duration and in-the-round floor plan (with the audience ringed by the orchestra), and a sound-bank of Cage's ideas, developed and finished by Andrew Culver.

Big as it is (15 dancers, 112 musicians), *Ocean* looks a little swamped in the vast Waterfront Hall, the circular dance floor, overhung by gargantuan lighting gantries, looking rather remote from the terraces. Even had this not been so, the slow elaborations and overlapping phrases of Cunningham's choreography (created with the aid of a computer program called *Lifeforms*) has a dreamy, abstract, even minimalist feel, almost ambient in the way it unfolds.

This sense was heavily reinforced by Cage's music. Perched in small hunches in the farthest-flung nooks and crannies of the hall, the orchestra (made up of local students) had to cope with "32,067 musical events" – sequences of short pieces played asynchronously without either score or conductor. The result, if half randomised, is far from cacophonous. Instead, it resolves into a diffuse and not altogether discordant drone, punctuated by the odd barp of a horn or timpani crash, and overlaid with the sometimes low-sounding comments of David Tudor's electronically

treated undersea noises and whale moans. It's all pitched at a kind of atmospheric, suspenseful expectancy – although, after 20 minutes, you realise you're getting nowhere fast.

Against this rhythmically formless backdrop, the dancers work to their own interior clocks. Clad in body suits that accentuate the gauzy overhead lighting, they introduce themselves in overlapping solos and duets with long phrases of movement broken by held poses, often pirouetting and wheeling around the circular stage, before draining off the floor down the four exit pathways.

Somewhere between Martha Graham and Tai Chi, there is far more elegance than emotion to the choreography. Even in the duets, the dancers are ultimately immersed in their own worlds. The overall picture only really kicks in after an hour with the big group displays, each dancer starting his or her phrase a couple of beats behind the last, serving up eye-dazzling shoals of complex movement.

Given *Ocean*'s largely eventless evolution, it helps to get your metabolic rate right down: if you're at all anxious, the clock-counter, displayed on an array of video monitors, is maddeningly unhelpful. That said, I was astonished at the warmth of the crowd's response. And when the septuagenarian Cunningham hobbled on, looking small and footsore on his arthritic ankles, they showered him with whoops of appreciation. It seemed he couldn't get off the stage after that: an utter tramp for the limelight, milking it with give-it-to-me flaps of his huge hands. Last perf tonight, 7.45pm Waterfront Hall (01232-334400) Mic Moroney

### THE WEEK IN THE ARTS

DAVID LISTER

A week is a long time in museum politics. What started as a well-orchestrated campaign for free admissions by all the great and the good lost its united front yesterday. Alan Borg, director of the V & A, broke ranks, saying that he and the heads of other charging museums would not tolerate extra money being given to the free museums to keep them free and no help being given to the charging museums. He had, after all, only introduced charging out of dire necessity and would keep his museum free if he could.

Could this be the same Alan Borg who told the recent Museum of Modern Art and Galleries Commission conference: "Every survey shows that most museum visitors come from the ABC1 social categories. Free admission subsidises the well-off and tourists."

Apparently it is the same chap. But only apparently. Other museum directors I asked claimed they could only vaguely remember Dr Borg uttering those words and assured me they had to be "contextualised". Why the apparent change in philosophy and communal amnesia?

The violinist formerly known as Nigel was introduced simply as Kennedy when he played the El-

gar concerto at the Virgin Megastore in London. Actually Kennedy has never been a great one for first names. When I first met him, he called me Monster throughout our chat, something I still worry about in the small hours. His change of name is suspiciously well timed, publicity-wise, for his new recording. It's just a pity he couldn't persuade



the conductor on the recording, Sir Simon Rattle, to join him in ditching first names and titles. Rattle and Kennedy. It does have a certain musical machismo. Simon and Nigel, on the other hand, is rather less butch.

More revealing is the fact that

K – to give Nige a more Kafkaesque title, and one he might consider adopting for his next CD – chose to perform Elgar at the Virgin Megastore, with a full 80-piece band squeezed into the basement of the Oxford street shop. But there's method in K's mould-breaking. The 500-strong audience were surrounded by shelves of discs and plenty of willing salespeople. Some 200 CDs were sold as the concert ended. That's over 10 per cent of the total needed to break into the classical Top 10, all in a few minutes. This was, I suspect, the first of many record-store concerts.

Culture secretary Chris Smith's proposal that the ENO leave the London Coliseum and share Covent Garden is highlighting the genuine affection people feel for the company. At the end of one of this week's performances of Verdi's *Falstaff*, a magical production by Matthew Warchus, music director Paul Daniel worked out that 15 out of the 17 performances ENO had played since Smith made his announcement had attracted audiences too large to fit into any other London theatre. Sometimes statistics can provide the most eloquent argument of all.

150 من الامم



# 21/SATURDAY STORY

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
21

## Spencer is back – but this time no applause

Somebody called it 'the divorce of the decade' which is, of course, wrong. His sister and brother-in-law hold that title. But certainly it is compelling, combining modern miseries and old-fashioned aristocratic fecklessness. Perhaps, says Glenda Cooper, that is the Spencers' lot.

There is no real contest for bad man of the week. Earl Spencer is that man. The details of the divorce case being played out in South African court are epic. The numbers alone are startling: it is alleged that he had 12 affairs in five months. He is said to be worth £100m and was attempting to fob off Victoria, his wife of five years, with £300,000. What he is alleged to have done and said to her is as shocking as it is riveting.

Yet it is less than three months since Charles Edward Maurice, the Right Honourable ninth Earl Spencer, was hailed as a sort of national hero; on the day of his sister's funeral, an occasion which he did not allow his wife to attend, his tribute was so moving and so perfectly captured the mood of the country. In it he attacked the Royal Family in scarcely veiled fashion and lambasted the press in round terms. Among the striking things about this week is the press's relish at his discomfiture and his remarkable insensitivity to his wife problems, including the same eating disorders that afflicted Diana.

How could a man who could articulate the grief and anger many felt at Diana's death so accurately, be so stupid that he could tell his wife at a particularly vulnerable time that he had never really loved her or tell such dreadful jokes about sticking with her through thick and thin – "she was thin and certainly thick".

The divorce case has, of course, made tremendous viewing. His wife turned up with one of his former mistresses Chantal Collopy on the first day of the hearing. ("He's the sort of man who makes women unite against him," said another former flame Sally-Ann Lasson).

Then the countess alleged that he had had slept with 10 or 12 women in the five months she spent at the exclusive Farm Place Clinic in Surrey, where she was treated for drink problems and anorexia nervosa.

Her lawyer added that Earl Spencer told his wife their marriage was over as he lay in the bath, saying "he didn't love her any more and she was no good as a wife". In a letter sent to his "paramour" Mrs Collopy, (reproduced opposite) the Earl described himself as "vicious, cruel and a bully" towards Victoria.

Not that the Earl's side let his wife have it his own way. The Countess could not have the £3.75m she demanded because she wouldn't be able to cope with it, said the Earl's lawyer. Leslie Weinkove told the judge: "There is a question mark over her ability to manage such an award, given that she has a 12-step approach to life dealing with each problem day to day." (a reference to the "Twelve Step" programme of self-help addiction recovery).

Then at the end of the fourth day of the couple's divorce hearing, David Horton-Fawkes, the manager of Lord Spencer's Althorp estate in Northamptonshire, spoke out on behalf of his friend saying Countess Spencer had been persuaded to launch a "malicious" campaign against her husband in the hope of financial gain.

"Far from claiming he was brutal, she lovingly and touchingly thanked him for his tolerance and support," he said.

Part of this obsession with his divorce has been our fascination that the rich – especially the aristocratic rich – are different. When Lady Spencer's lawyer expresses horror at only being offered £300,000 for a house and says she would only be able to "get a house in a very unattractive distant suburb with problems, perhaps, of crime", the rest of us roll our eyes.

But mainly Earl Spencer had set himself up for it. He took on the press so nakedly at the time of his sister's death – he called his sister "the most hunted person of the modern age", accused editors of having blood on their hands and concluded "my own and only explanation is that genuine goodness is threatening to those at the opposite end of the moral spectrum". The media, cowed by the flak they took at the time of Diana's death, had been skewered by the Earl more than anyone else. This week was payback time.

How can a man intelligent enough to construct the tribute at Diana's funeral be stupid enough to try to get a gagging order to stop the press reporting the divorce hearings. And how was it that a man who could sum up Diana so accurately – childlike, insecure and helping others as a way of improving her self-esteem – could be so cruel to his own wife?

Part of this at least lies in his own upbringing. The nation may feel that they have been unfortunate in having the dysfunctional Windsors as the Royal Family. But we should think ourselves lucky we didn't get the Spencers.

Charles the youngest Spencer was only four when his mother Frances Shand Kydd left home. He developed a fear of the dark and would cry: "I want my Mummy. I want my Mummy."

His father Johnny had bullied Frances and had forced her to take gynaecological tests when she did not produce the all-important heir. Charles was the fifth child of the marriage – an earlier son had died.

During the divorce Johnny made no attempt to hide from his children, the



Brotherly love: Earl Spencer reading the tributes to Diana at her resting place at Althorp in Northamptonshire Photograph: David Jones

acrimony between himself and Frances and fought tooth and nail to get custody of the children whom he then left to be brought up by nannies and au pairs. When he married for a second time to the then Raine Dartmouth (who Charles had met and disliked), he left it to Charles's headmaster at Eton to tell him that they had married.

Add to the casual cruelty that he had seen his father display to his mother, Charles was also brought up as heir – not only an earldom but a house and 8,500-acre Northamptonshire estate. Anachronistic as it may sound he was part of something that had been in his family for generations. Hostility to "acid Raine", as he and Diana named their stepmother, was due in part to her selling off family heirlooms.

Like her mother-in-law before her, Victoria Spencer produced children at a rapid rate – four children in four years until the birth of Louis, Viscount Althorp

made the dynasty secure.

Is it any wonder that Charles Spencer seems to have no idea how to behave to women? And yet he is not entirely insensitive either. His wife's lawyers said that in a letter he had admitted being callous, vicious and a bully to Victoria; the full text revealed something more self-aware. He had actually written: "I feel a dreadful bully to Victoria. I've been callous and vicious, trying to force her out of my life. She deserves better than that – a good man, who will love her, give her security and help her deal with her shortcomings."

Writing of his parents he added: "If I can't learn from their mistakes by avoiding divorce, I can at least prevent the unpleasantness that accompanied it."

**It would be wrong simply to demonise the Earl. Like Diana he has been squashed into a mould he doesn't fit**

His tribute to Diana was masterful and his attack on the Royal Family exact: his references to "blood family", his insinuation that for the first time Diana had found joy in her private life, her eating disorders brought on during her marriage. The Prince of Wales stood accused.

Yet Charles Windsor appears to have treated his wife less cruelly than Charles Spencer. He did not quibble over the divorce, he brought on during her marriage. The Prince of Wales stood accused.

But then the Earl has been sketched in bold lines. He has been a cartoon character to the press right from the very beginning. Within a month of reaching Magdalen College, Oxford (where he got a 2:1 in history), one contemporary remembers he had already made the pages of the university newspaper *Cherwell* as part of his exploits with the dining club the Bullingdon, who had smashed up a restaurant in Thame. He and his dicey friends have made regular appearances in newspapers since.

But it would be wrong simply to demonise the Earl. Like Diana he has been squashed into a mould he doesn't fit. He is a man of some intelligence who has at times behaved like a completely stupid and insensitive pillock.

Like most of us he is inconsistent and sometimes stupid. He certainly has the capacity to surprise us. He has done it twice in three months.

### The Earl as poet and pundit: the tribute at Diana's funeral

I stand before you today, the representative of a family in grief, in a country in mourning, before a world in shock. We are all united, not only in our desire to pay our respects to Diana but rather in our need to do so.

For such was her extraordinary appeal that the tens of millions of people taking part in this service all over the world, via television and radio, who never actually met her, feel that they, too, lost someone close to them...

Without your God-given sensitivity, we would be immersed in greater ignorance at the anguish of Aids and HIV sufferers, the plight of the homeless, the isolation of lepers, the random destruction of landmines. Diana explained to me once that it was her innermost feelings of suffering that made it possible for her to connect with her constituency of the rejected.

And here we come to another truth about her. For all the status, the glamour, the applause, Diana remained throughout a very insecure person at heart, almost childlike in her desire to do good for others so she could release herself from deep feelings of unworthiness, of which her eating disorders were merely a symptom.

The world sensed this part of her character and cherished her for her vulnerability, while admiring her for her honesty.

She would want us today to pledge ourselves to protecting her beloved boys William and Harry from a similar fate, and I do this here, Diana, on your behalf. We will not allow them to suffer the anguish that used regularly to drive you to tearful despair. And, beyond that, on behalf of your mother and sisters, I pledge that we, your blood family, will do all we can to continue the imaginative way in which you were steering these two exceptional young men, so that their souls are not simply immersed by duty and tradition but can sing openly, as you planned.

We... like you, recognise the need for them to experience as many different aspects of life as possible to arm them spiritually and emotionally for the years ahead.

### The Earl as a selfish sensualist: his love letter to Chantal

Do I want to spend the rest of my life with you? Yes. When I was with you, everything is so clear.

You've been wonderfully patient with me and as for sensible – well, you couldn't have been more wise and considerate. For someone who's screwed up a major part of his life by charging into something he feared and didn't understand – marriage – your control... has prevented me repeating my error.

I feel sorry for Victoria, for Don and for all six children involved. I never intended to put my children through the hell of a divorce, but I hope these divorces will be more civilised than that of my parents...

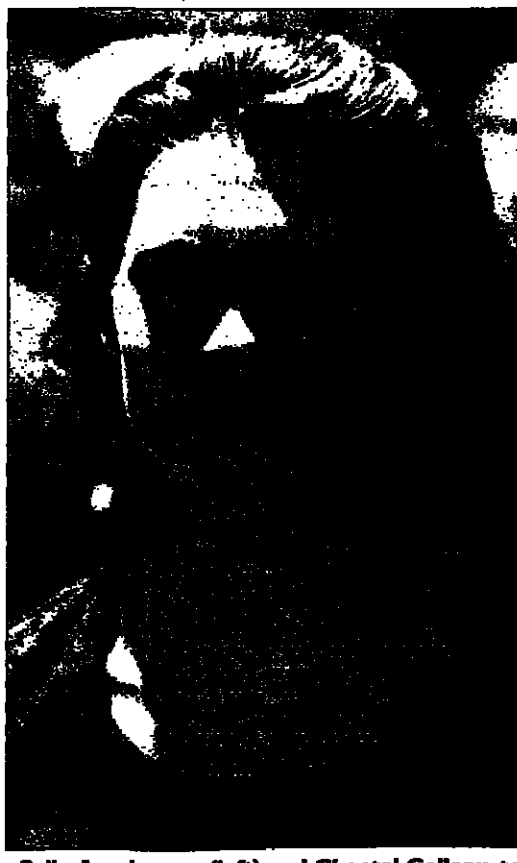
I feel a dreadful bully to Victoria. I've been callous and vicious, trying to force her out of my life. She deserves better than that – a good man, who will love her, give her security and help her deal with her shortcomings...

It is a time of turmoil, but the potential for happiness is there and neither of us is happy at present.

Deep down, I've always known my marriage was a mismatch, a terrible error, an impulsive whim that I compounded by adding more and more children to my family. There have been good times, but the bad ones have been chillingly awful. I'm not sure whether Victoria can remember them all, but I can, and I never want to go through such desperate lows again.

Part of the problem has been having an immature wife, one who is incapable of dealing with a husband with a strong character, except by going on hunger strike, an alcohol binge, or resorting to drugs. The other side of the problem is that I cannot deal with a woman who does these things to herself and I can't respect such negative reactions and therefore found my love drifting away. There wasn't an abundance of it in the first place.

### THE EARL'S WOMEN



The Earl's wife Victoria (centre) and his mistresses Sally-Ann Lasson (left) and Chantal Collopy, to whom he revealed the truth of his marriage

## Yes, save the planet, but spare us these latterday bah humbugs



EDITOR: ANDREW MARR.  
DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES.  
ADDRESS: 1 CANADA SQUARE,  
CANARY WHARF,  
LONDON E14 5DL  
TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000  
OR: 0171 345 2000  
FAX: 0171 293 2435  
OR: 0171-345 2435

In certain primitive societies, there is an annual festival around the time of the winter solstice. The people fear that, unless they spend lots and lots of money in shopping temples, they will close, never to open again. They would then, according to ancient myth, be condemned to exist in darkness, unable to take part in the life-giving ritual of buying unnecessary plastic objects (which will be paid for in the afterlife). They believe that, at this time of year, they must crowd together in these shopping temples and engage in traditional rituals known as browsing, just-looking and searching for things without knowing what they are looking for. The people fear that unless they find suitable offerings to make to the other members of their tribe, consumerism as they know it will collapse, and the gods of their religion will be angry.

Thus most of the ceremonies are conducted in a trance-like state of anxiety and exhaustion, after which entire societies come to a halt for 12 days of rest, recuperation and over-eating.

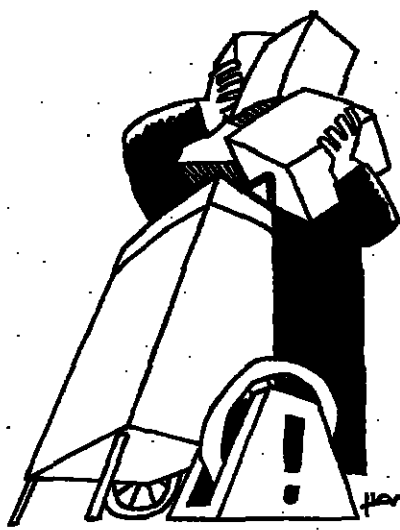
Welcome, then, to No Shopping Day, a heresy as yet subject to contempt and ridicule, but which is destined to overthrow the ancient superstitions. It is not as if anyone enjoys the orgy of commercialism and

consumption: it is just that no one can even conceive of stopping it.

The country divides into those who on becoming aware of the onset of December (that's Monday, for those who have been busy) feel a chill of terror in the pit of their stomach, and those who know they have already ticked cousin Brian off their list. At one extreme end of the spectrum are the true phobics, mostly male, who have been known to return from six hours of "shopping" empty-handed apart from a book which they bought for themselves.

They are capable of doing this on Christmas Eve in the morning and having to return to the temples in the evening (which of course is the best possible time as they are almost deserted). At the other extreme are the super-rationalists, mostly female, who drew up a list in October and have already ordered everything from a catalogue. The rest of us muddle through the middle, a list of half-thoughts on a scrap of paper in one hand and a vague recollection that the average child receives £75-worth of presents at the back of the mind.

Of course, it is possible to restrain the arms-race of Christmas spending through mutual non-aggression pacts between



adults, although the negotiations could be more delicate than any Start Treaty.

But it is the children who make any de-escalation really difficult. The television advertising has been running for weeks and the anticipation is already rising. Hardened tiny cynics who give every appearance of

testing Jack Straw's under-10s curfew to the limit reveal a touching faith in the corporeal reality of Santa's sleigh, loaded with its improbable cargo.

The only thing that can make the shopping treadmill bearable for many is the mental picture of happy, smiling primary-school-age faces.

That, and the prospect of having a go on the Scalextric or computer game, can inure adults to walking around endless shops with that detestable modern catchphrase, "shop until you drop", echoing in our minds.

We may not like the commercialism, but who can say that they have never gained some pleasure from buying presents?

This is where the green case starts to become confused. Charles Secrett, the earnest director of Friends of the Earth, tried to sound jolly on the radio yesterday, saying No Shopping Day was supposed to be "fun".

Well, it didn't sound fun, it sounded more like a punishment. The "No Shop", a Friends of the Earth stunt, is a tempting window design advertising all manner of "special offers". But the space inside contains images of empty shelves, a "No Sales Assistant" and a cash register. Visitors re-

ceive a shopping bag and a receipt which thanks them for "Not Shopping at No Shop". The aim is said to be "to get the message across that going on an orgy of shopping is not going to save precious resources". This is the kind of vomit-inducing moralising that gives greens a bad name.

Yes, most people buy more than they need. Our lifestyles are not sustainable. But Christmas shopping, for children at least, is the fun bit. It is just the mechanics that can be so tiresome. Let's do all the boring green things like put in energy-saving lightbulbs and give up the car, but let the children have a few large boxes of non-renewable plastics on the one big day of the year.

The important difficulty is how to get the boxes home and stashed in hidden places without hitting the out-of-town Toys R Us and putting the loot in the boot of the Volvo.

What we need is a green home delivery service, so that presents can be requested by mail order and delivered under conditions of great secrecy in the middle of the night. Preferably by air, using an environmentally friendly mode of transport. By a big friendly bloke with a beard and red coat.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Museum charges

Sir: There is no statistical evidence whatsoever to prove that visitor numbers to our museums decreased after charging was introduced. In fact figures quoted in David Lister's article "Museum's which charge lose a third of visitors" (27 November) are fictitious.

Before charging was introduced, without an electronic ticketing system, there was simply no accurate way of counting visitors. Visitor numbers were grossly over-estimated, un-audited and often "best guesses".

We are not advocating charging for museums per se, but all museums are expensive to run and none of them has been properly funded by government for years. However, we believe that charging for admission does not stop people from visiting museums. The report of recent research commissioned by the Museums and Galleries Commission (the Government's advisers on museum policy) said that "any reported impacts of charges on visitor numbers are of questionable reliability".

Only 4 per cent of those questioned in this research who did not visit museums cited admission charges as the deterring factor. Moreover, a clear majority expects to contribute to museums' finances according to use, and lack of time to visit museums is a much greater constraint than an admission charge.

Whatever the Government's decision it must provide adequate funding for all national museums and galleries, instead of subjecting them to the miserable cheese-paring of the last decade. If charging were abolished, and the revenues not completely compensated by government, the results would be disastrous. No more effective way of denying access to the public could be imagined.

Dr NEIL CHALMERS  
Director, The Natural History Museum

ROBERT CRAWFORD  
Director, Imperial War Museum

JOHN FREEBORN  
Deputy Director, The Royal Air Force Museum

RICHARD ORMOND  
Director, The National Maritime Museum

London SW7

### Care after school

Sir: There is a huge emphasis on after-school care for the single parent. Our club in Milton Keynes operates as a parent co-operative. Children from "two-parent families" are equally welcome, as they also benefit from after-school play and communal activities.

Quite rightly there are grave concerns over provision of suitably trained staff. Over the past three years I have had great difficulty in attracting applicants of the right calibre. The UK undervalues the role of the playworker. Whilst we welcome any training initiative from the Government, I hope it won't deteriorate into a way of keeping young people occupied and off the unemployment register while they find something better.



A dinosaur skeleton overlooks the turnstiles at the Natural History Museum

Photograph: John Voos

I hope that due concern is given to accommodation. Your article "Harman's after school care dream holed by lack of staff" (27 November) refers to clubs running in "schools, community centres, youth clubs and church halls". In the brave new world of Milton Keynes, our schools are modern and do not lend themselves to multiple use of the facilities. Open-plan classrooms are impossible to share for both educational and play purposes.

MARILYN MOFFAT  
Chair, Management Committee  
Heronsgate After School Project  
Milton Keynes  
Buckinghamshire

Sir: Everyone involved in lobbying for better child care will welcome the Government's £300m investment in a national childcare programme (report, 26 November). But if the plans are to work, they must be built on the foundations that are already in place.

In the UK, the majority of child care for the under-eights - including before- and after-school care - is provided by registered childminders working in their own homes. These carers are the backbone of Britain's childcare economy. They are particularly important for lone parents, who value the individual attention and continuity of care childminders can offer.

While an expansion of after-school clubs is to be welcomed, all parents have the right to choose the best type of care for their children, and my association will be lobbying hard for a part of the new investment to be targeted at the expansion, training and support of registered childminders so that parental choice and children's welfare stay at the top of the political agenda.

GILL HAYNES  
National Childminding Association  
Bromley, Kent

Sir: Mothers who wish to stay at home should be paid to look after their pre-school children. Carmen Fielding's article "Why working life is not always a bed of roses" (27 November) is realistic and poignant. I am also a working mother; however, I have five children, and with each one have experienced different periods of maternity leave, culminating most recently in a year.

The decision by Harriet Harman to invest millions of pounds in child care encourages the view that the separation of a child from its parents is not only natural but desirable. The result will be even more mothers forced through poverty to work in order to pay someone else to look after their young children.

For those mothers who wish to stay at home this amounts to an inefficient distribution of child care, to say nothing of the effects on the children of impoverished parenting.

CAROLYN BUTLER  
London SW5

Sir: I am a single parent from the "not so deserving" category outlined by Lynne Reid Banks (letter, 27 November). Thankfully I am in work, and supporting myself and my son. Unemployment is unfortunately a possibility for us all. Does Lynne Reid Banks object to her taxes supporting more traditional families when unemployed?

I am more than happy for my taxes to go on supporting women or men struggling to bring up their families.

CAROLINE BUCKNALL  
London N4

### Deer hunters

Sir: William Petrie (Letters, 27 November) is wrong to imply that hunting deer with hounds imposes the same stress that they suffer when preyed on by wolves. Wolves hunt by ambushing their prey, and a deer's muscles are geared towards short sprints to escape this kind of attack. Deer are ill-adapted to long chases; hence the muscle damage and other indications of stress and severe exhaustion detailed in the Bateson Report.

Where deer populations need to be controlled, the least stressful options are shooting by a trained marksman, or immuno-contraception - a technique used successfully in the US for the past eight years but given precious little attention in this country.

NIGEL GOODWIN  
School of Biology  
University of Nottingham

Sir: All field sportsmen and women regard their sport as a wildlife conservation measure. Where hunting is banned and the sporting value to the community of red deer is thereby destroyed, the animals are reduced to the status of vermin. Yet *The Independent* chooses to see the resulting slaughter as "a propaganda exercise" ("Bloody Revenge for stag hunt ban", 25 November).

Beast for beast, red deer destroy more crops than domestic stock do. They eat, trample and lie on large acreages of growing crops of hay and corn.

West Country farmers are not agriturbans. Without the hunt to move on the deer, the damage becomes more lo-

calised and concentrated. They can hardly be blamed for protecting their crops, and incidentally harvesting legally the stock which they have harboured and fed, before the poachers from the towns get them. The lucrative venison market attracts armed and violent men: remove the sporting incentive and local people will not risk violence on dark nights in unrewarded wildlife protection.

O H F GUILLEBAUD  
Cheltenham,  
Gloucestershire

### Public lives

Sir: David Aaronovitch ("The right not to be known", 26 November) takes his argument for personal privacy too far.

If celebrities, such as Michael Hutchence and Paula Yates, systematically titillate their tabloid and television public with details of their private lives, it is neither surprising nor unreasonable that their chosen public should exhibit a prurient interest in the circumstances of an untimely death.

The case of Earl Spencer and reports of his divorce process is different. This man took the occasion of the memorial service for his sister, Diana, with a huge global audience, not only to castigate the media whose attentions she had so assiduously encouraged, but also to affirm the dutiful dedication of her "blood family", with thinly-veiled criticism of the Royal Family's treatment of her. He fuelled the then prevailing popular hysteria.

I am not an admirer of the House of Windsor. I do, however, despise humbug, and I consider the Spencer story entirely legitimate "public interest". It is proper that his treatment of his wife and family be available for comparison.

M J KNIGHT  
Langley,  
Berkshire

### Everest politics

Sir: I fully agree with Ed Douglas's opposition to the Chinese occupation of Tibet ("Everest climbers urged to join Tibet boycott", 26 November). It is also grossly unfair that most of the money spent by expeditions to climb Everest goes into government coffers rather than to the local communities, whether that be in Nepal or Tibet.

However, calling for a boycott of the mountain will remove a major source of income from the Sherpa villages that supply porters to climbing expeditions, thus damaging these communities. While some commercial expeditions do exploit these people, there are companies which don't: co-operatives which pay them fairly.

An example of climbers helping these remote regions is the Himalayan Trust, created by Edmund Hillary, which has helped to build schools and medical centres and to rebuild the Thyangboche monastery after a fire in 1989.

Most of the climbers I know are not complacent about the Tibet issue and do oppose the Chinese occupation. Boycotting the mountain will not make the Chinese leave, but may well cut off a valuable source of income for the local peoples and stop one of the groups best placed to publicise the effects of the invasion from doing so.

PETE JOHNSON  
Cambridge

### Causes of anorexia

Sir: Whilst applauding Dr Dee Dawson for the sentiments expressed in her speech to the Girls' Schools Association ("Let children eat crisps, says doctor", 28 November), I feel that by concentrating on the nutritional needs of children she is diverting attention from the main issue regarding the onset of eating disorders.

We need to look further than an apparent desire to emulate supermodels or a striving for physical fitness. Eating disorders are more commonly caused by the sufferers' own perceived lack of ability to measure up to the stringent expectations set by our highly competitive society, of achieving high academic standards and a successful career, and all this with apparent ease. In these days of school league tables, teachers must be alert to the needs of these sensitive and perfectionist pupils who frequently are an asset to their schools but at great cost to themselves.

Since food is the means by which life is sustained, its denial can be a resignation from the pressures of life itself.

PENELOPE BAILY  
Newmarket House Clinic  
Norwich

### Sticky issue

Sir: Is the glue on stamps and envelopes made from animal carcasses? I've stopped eating burgers but don't know whether to lay off correspondence as well.

JASON GATHORNE-HARDY  
London SW3

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Please do not eat the newspaper. Most striking letter of the week wings in from Upper Poppleton from David McMillan, who explains that he was woken in the night by the whining of his dog, a two-year-old lurcher bitch and went to investigate: "I could hardly believe my eyes. Her normally skeletal-thin features had ballooned enormously, so much so that she could not even open her eyes; she looked like a Staffordshire Bull Terrier after serious dental work."

It was entirely caused, according to Mr McMillan's vet, "by her having chewed a tiny corner of yesterday's *Independent*" even though she had chewed the paper earlier in the year "to no ill effect". He asks whether there is some horrible new constituent in the ink and suggests we warn readers with dogs and children: "Meanwhile, I'll try to ensure that it's just me who devours your otherwise-excellent newspaper."

Well, I've investigated. The people at both our print sites, in Oldham and Watford, say there's been no change in the ink they have used for - well, decades. It's the usual mixture of pigs' blood, old motorway tar, Stout, bottled phlegm and minced bin-liners that it's always been. Nothing wrong there. Nutritious, even.

Seriously, though, the ink hasn't changed and isn't toxic. It is apparently a mineral, oil-based substance, with carbon floating in it and, as one of the Oldham managers pointed out, "My lads would go mad if there was anything dangerous in it: we breathe and eat the damned stuff all the time." Yet: you owe that man a refund.

My advice would nevertheless be not to eat the paper, at least not regularly. The habit is probably widespread. Our esteemed political columnist, "Don" Macintyre, is famous in the

trade for his habit of unconsciously consuming paper as an aid to moral speculation. He once ate an entire typewritten story, in the days before computerised newsrooms, without noticing, and on one occasion is said to have caused an argument in a restaurant about the bill, having absent-mindedly devoured a five-pound note lying on the table. Anyway, as newspapers go, *The Independent* is pretty toothsome - the flavour is slightly nutty, with a whiff of mushroom. But for addicts, a tip: much the same effect can be found by keeping packets of Bath Oliver biscuits open for a couple of weeks.

One of the tasks of this paper's editor has been to regularly infuriate a vocal section of the readership. One of the benefits of reading *The Independent* is, I like to think, the invigorating effect of experiencing occasional but extreme spasms of rage at breakfast, thus flushing out the toxins and giving the heart a bit of timely exercise. On the foxhunting issue we have clearly surpassed ourselves. I have had almost equally angry letters from pro-hunt and pro-fox readers.

Why are we not on the side of the righteous? Why don't we stand up for minorities? This has not been a debate which allows much space for subtlety. But here, yet again, is our position. We dislike hunting. *The Independent* is not staffed by Jor-rocks-like chaps with purple faces and a good seat. But at the same time we are a mildly libertarian paper and don't approve of it being banned or criminalised by the Government. We want it to die away because of the actions of landowners and a change in fashion. How, some of you ask, is it possible to be against something and also against banning it? Oh Voltaire, we need you back.

Andrew Marr

## QUOTE UNQUOTE

During the later years of this Parliament, I will be one of many MPs getting help with my fuel bills. Thank you, kind Chancellor, but the bribe is not generous enough to buy my vote - Kenneth Clarke, former chancellor, whose wife will be 60 three years from now

Unless this rocket man comes down in price, we will be taking a walk down the yellow brick road on this one - Andrew Giamolla, publisher's spokesman, on claims that Elton John's manager is seeking £8m for his life story

I simply cannot believe that all those letters I have received pleading for the fox are written by people who understand that they are advocating, in practice, a means of killing which is slower, more painful, less certain than hunting - Michael Heseltine, who opposes the anti-hunting Bill

Prozac is the drug of choice for glum PC sentimentalists unable to face the spiritual deficiencies at the heart of their own decaying liberalism - Camille Paglia, US feminist icon

I will not be the last Tory MP to fall for a pretty woman and so it is no use party activists telling MPs to do up their trousers - Piers Merchant, ex-Conservative MP

I am not a womaniser - Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer



# 23/COMMENT

## A sure-fire cure for fouling dogs – and fouler commuters



DAVID  
AARONOVITCH  
ZERO TOLERANCE

The woman solicitor from Cleveland was clearly shocked. Policing in her area, she told the reporter from the *Today* programme, had become far too tough. Under the zero tolerance regime of Detective Chief Inspector Ray Mallon (I think he's a DCI. Or is that what Helen Mirren was?) constables cracking down on minor felonies had taken to interpreting their orders a little too literally. And yes, she could give plenty of horrifying examples. "One man," she wailed uncomprehendingly, "was CS-sprayed for urinating in the street."

And – along I suspect with a million others – my first reaction was "good". I was glad that this chap urinating in the street had been sprayed. In fact my only worry was that the punishment failed to fit the disgusting crime. It would have been more appropriate had the entire Cleveland police force gone round to this man's flat and relieved themselves on his stair carpet and stereo. But still, a good CS spraying was a start.

I mean it. Readers may recall the incident when a south London car breaker – a verminous wretch if ever there was one – smashed his way into a parked Sierra, and was promptly shot by the IRA gunman who, by unlucky coincidence, had been sleeping on the back seat surrounded by blankets, Semtex and Brownings. For one moment many of us saw the attractions of summary justice, and wondered whether we couldn't find alternative employment for the odd Volunteer when the Troubles finally came to an end. A couple of shootings, and the cars in your street would be safe for a generation. On second thoughts, maybe not.

Actually, the micturating Northeasterner is only one of the many types of minor miscreants that I am happy to see given a taste of Belfast Aftermath. I have had some small successes with the local non-scooping dog-walkers, springing out at dawn on the least tough-looking of them and asking why they don't get their animals to do that (pointing) in front of their own houses. They bluster and claim they were completely unaware of their pooches' actions

(whereas, in truth, they plan the defecation like a military operation), but they do not return.

Now – this victory behind me – I wish to wage war on another front. First, before I reveal my target, it is important that we agree about the salience of all this. Put simply, the more we tolerate impolite, anti-social and abusive behaviour, the worse it will get. It is true that modern society throws up all kinds of situations where the etiquette is not quite clear or has yet to develop. That's why there are so many arguments about where and when one can politely use a mobile phone or have one's pager go off.

But it is also true that there are many circumstances where we know perfectly well what the rules are, or ought to be, but where they are being broken with increasing impunity. And it is this that represents a slide away from considerate and polite behaviour, towards rude and ultimately criminal conduct.

So what is my new target? Well, I do not like people who either fail to hold heavy doors open for those behind them, or who fail to thank those who open doors for them. They must wait, however. For the fastest growing incivility that I see around me is those people who put their feet up on the seats of trains.

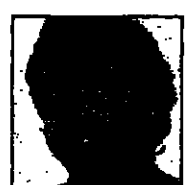
Now, when I was a teenager, with long hair, a combat jacket with "Yanks Out of Vietnam" written on it in Magic Marker and a rebellious attitude, I would not have dreamed of resting my desert boots on the seat opposite. Quite prepared to risk cunctious interruptions, anxious to try cunctiling (and able to spell it), happy to smoke the occasional joint and to hurl abuse at the American embassy in Grosvenor Square, I drew the line at placing my dirty shoes somewhere that my fellow citizen would have to sit. And, even if I hadn't, a guard or a stolid member of the working classes would soon have put me right.

What a falling off there has been since then! Last week, when travelling on the London Underground, I discovered that the seat upon which I wished to rest was already occupied by the muddy platforms of a pudgy young woman with frizzy hair and a pre-emptive scowl. I waved vaguely at her legs with my furred copy of *The Independent* – at which, giving me a look of complete contempt and uttering a seismic sigh, she slid her shoes slowly down from the upholstery. At that moment I wanted nothing more than that Ray Mallon should get on the train and psittit, zap her right in the kisser.

The terrible thing is, that if this young lady cannot see why she is wrong in this instance, she is also unlikely to worry about littering the streets, standing up for the infirm and pregnant, observing no smoking signs and singing Spice Girl numbers at the top of her tuneless voice at midnight outside the houses of decent couples with three children.

I am familiar with the usual arguments against taking stern action. But would the world really be such a boring place, so staid and unexciting, if we were to banish – with just an aerosol blast or two – some of the most selfish and unacceptable behaviour in our society? Is it really so colourful and cheerful to live in streets awash with wee and to sit on seats covered in crud? Psittit!

## Greedy Americans and nice, wet Europeans – the politics of weather



NICHOLAS  
SCHOON  
THE KYOTO  
SUMMIT

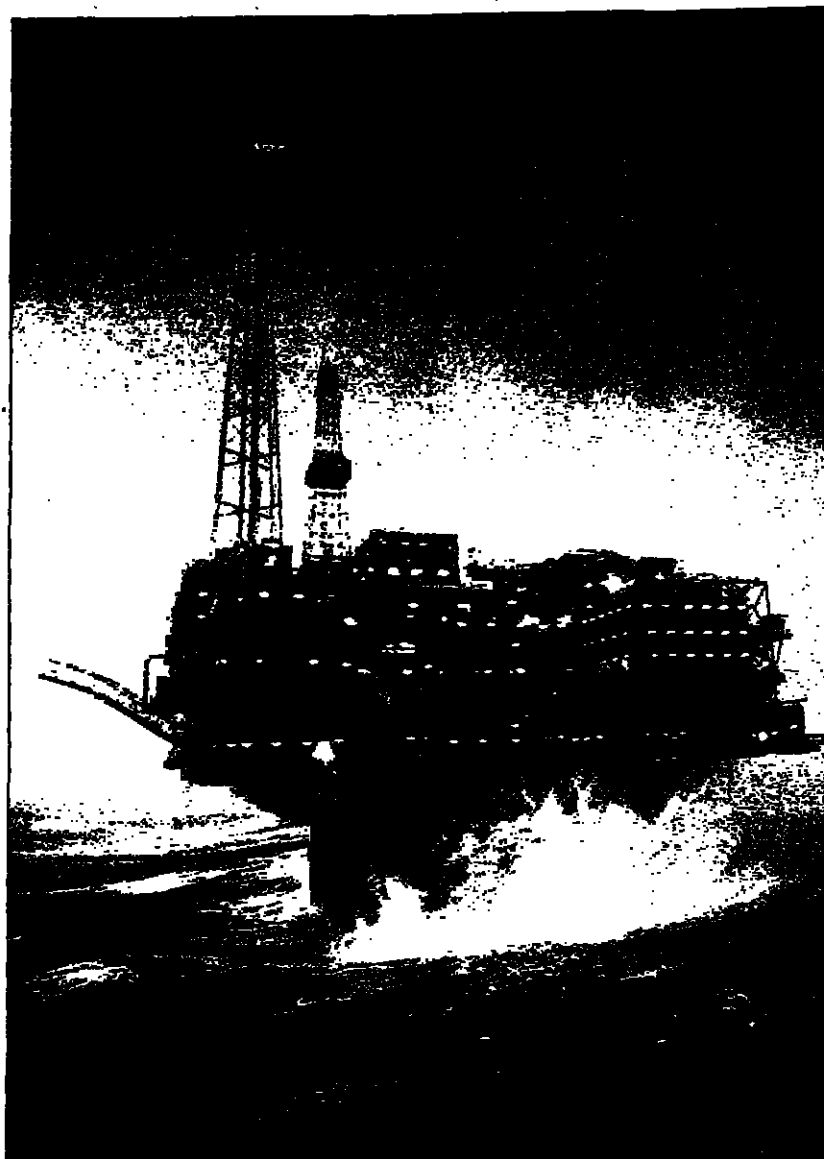
How will the Kyoto Climate Summit, which starts on Monday, play in most of the British media and across Europe? Well, something like this. The greedy, selfish US, with its air-conditioners and big cars and isolationists, right-wing politicians, refuses to stop guzzling fossil fuels and insists on remaining the world's biggest climate-polluter – out of short-term self-interest. But the enlightened European Union holds out to the last minute, insisting that all the wealthy countries make a big cut in their greenhouse gas emissions. In the end there is some weak and disappointing compromise that does little to save the world from flood, drought and searing heat.

It isn't an unreasonable portrayal. But once you start to peer into the murky big picture behind this summit, you may find the American position a little more understandable.

Considered on a time-scale of thousands of years, the Earth's climate fluctuates naturally, wildly – and dangerously. The last ice age ended but 10,000 years ago. The next one may be round the corner. Our Western world has been built in a few hundred years of mild, pretty stable climate. We ought to be grateful for this and leave it well alone; instead we have started interfering by raising the level of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the best of our scientists can give us only vague ideas about how quickly those changes will proceed and what they will be. At least another 10 years will pass before they can tell, with any certainty, what climate change will mean for most nations over a 20-to-100-year time-scale.

That makes negotiations on how to tackle the problem immensely complicated. It can only be solved collectively, with countries finding some agreement on how to share out the sacrifices that have to be made.



But how can a government agree to take action that may cost money and votes back at home, when it does not know what it stands to lose if there is no action?

Furthermore, climate change cannot be "stopped" in any normal sense of the word. It has already begun, and if we immediately did everything we could to fix it, such as stopping all consumption of fossil fuels overnight, it would still keep on changing deep into the next century – albeit more and more slowly.

In any case, calling such an immediate halt is out of the question, for our economies and standard of living are addicted to gas, oil and coal and can be only slowly weaned off them. As we burn our way through the vast quantities of remaining fossil fuel reserves well beyond the millennium, we are committing our Earth to centuries of further climate changes and increasing danger. This is an issue not just for the next century but for the deep future – we need to think about it not just in terms of children

and grandchildren, but on the same time-scale as those who built medieval cathedrals. For it is in this distant future, beyond 2100, when the ice caps of Antarctica and Greenland will slip into the sea and raise its level by hundreds of feet – unless we start turning the super-tanker now.

The goal of the Kyoto delegates should be to slow down the rate of change to a level that our most vulnerable systems – farming, forestry, low-lying islands, water resources – can cope with, and eventually stabilise the climate.

We have only a dim idea of what is tolerable, and where the balance lies between the costs of acting now and the costs of climate damage – or coping with it – in future. But it seems certain that achieving this goal means making deep, global cuts in the next few decades in the emissions of climate-changing gases, principally carbon dioxide, which comes mainly from burning fossil fuels. Yet our consumption of these fuels is rising steadily, in line with population and econ-

omic growth, at around 2 per cent a year.

We certainly can cut fossil fuel consumption, especially in the developed world. After all, we use it extremely wastefully because it is so abundant and cheap, and there are alternatives. But making these changes is certain to be painful for governments – they will have to upset powerful industrial lobbies, raise the cost of fuel, risk the wrath of voters. They are being asked to take all this pain with no precise knowledge of what the gain is; what exactly is in it for individual nations. The information is unavailable.

That is the main reason why these negotiations are so difficult and so stalled. The European Union's solution is to say that the developed nations must lead the way with a simple, decisive action – they must all cut their emissions by 15 per cent by 2010 compared to their 1990 level. That would make a real start on tackling the

threat, and it will also show the Third World – whose emissions are rising rapidly, and will soon overtake the West's – that the rich countries are serious. It is a bold, moral stance, but somewhat compromised by the fact that under this proposal some of the poorer EU countries will be allowed to raise their emissions drastically – by more than 30 per cent. Other, wealthier countries, such as Britain and Germany, will offset this by making even deeper cuts.

All the other developed countries are willing to give far less. Australia, whose economy is particularly reliant on heavy fossil fuel use, insists that it must be allowed to raise its fossil fuel emissions by 18 per cent. The US advocates stabilising annual emissions between 1990 and 2010. It also insists that big, fast-industrialising developing countries such as India and China will have to make some sort of commitment in Kyoto to restrain their fast rising emissions.

And here's another huge problem in these negotiations. The bad guys, us in the West who have caused the great bulk of climate change so far, hold nearly all the cards. It looks as though we will suffer the least as the climate changes, because our wealth and technology put us in a fairly strong position to cope with rising sea levels and changes in temperature and rainfall. Poor, densely populated nations will be far more at risk, yet they have little negotiating strength. As the climate summit opens, the Third World is divided and confused about the issue. If they refuse to discuss controlling their emissions, and there is no agreement, and no controls, then they will be the biggest losers. It is extremely unfair.

We have had less than 10 years of international negotiations over climate change, and a century or more of them lies ahead. This climate diplomacy will make the protracted super-power negotiations over nuclear weapons and the endless Galt world trade talks look quick and easy in comparison. Kyoto is just the beginning of the beginning. The most important thing of all is to make any agreement legally binding and enforceable – if there is no progress on that, the planet really is in trouble.

So the big picture peddled by the press is pretty right. America looks pretty ugly. But Europe's grand idea of a simple, moral gesture offers no lasting solution.

## Private education: how we can have our cake and eat it



TREVOR  
PHILLIPS  
LABOUR'S  
EGALITARIANISM

Just for a moment there, I thought the middle classes were going to get away with it. The word going around the smart dinner parties was that Blair's men were realistic. They would not interfere with the comforts that make up for the stresses of pursuing a professional career.

Of course, they could be as "inclusive" as all hell; but our private pleasures would be immune from invasion by rough sorts. Improve the national health service by all means; but privately-insured appendices would still be taken out in one of those nice Bupa facilities. Support the arts, but "access" would not mean yobs at the opera; and as for education – well, a few extra billion go to state schools, but what we pay for keeps its character.

Labour's shadow ministers made the right noises before the election, and since May they have sturdily stood by the rights of the affluent – and sometimes not-so-affluent – to pay for those little extras which make life more comfortable.

It's the sort of message that makes the professional's heart sing as he picks up his *Independent* (or some other, nameless, broadsheet) in the village near his weekend cottage. It's also a message that causes Labour activists to do unBlair-like things, such as giving Ken Livingstone's political career the kiss of life. The word "betrayal" still comes easily to the lips of the Labour rank-and-file.

But there is a sting in the New Labour tail – if they can hold their nerve (tobacco and foxes are not good omens). In recent days the Government has turned out two of its principal charm-merchants to tell Labour's traditional class enemies how safe they are; this is the equivalent of the football club chairman's vote of confidence in the manager. It is blindingly obvious that inside the velvet glove the steel fist is flexing itself.

Those who abandoned the Blue Team on 1 May, assuming that all the nasty redistributive nonsense had been knocked out of Labour by that nice Mr Blair, had better think again: socialism was never just about money. Today the vogue word is "inclusion"; it may not mean more taxes for the affluent, but if it means what I think it means, there are many who would happily part with some extra dosh rather than be inclusive.

The first signs came from the arts. There was rejoicing when the poetry-reading, intellectual Friend of Tony, Chris Smith, got the Ministry of Culture gig; Mr Smith has lived up to his reputation as a man who knows his arts from his elbow, with positive announcements and appearances on screen, in print and in the theatre. But his determination to let ordinary folk enjoy the delights of grand opera is clearly making some uneasy. The management of Covent Garden are faced with

rumblings amongst backers, who wonder why they should pay large amounts of money to mix with *hot polloi*. They want everyone to enjoy opera; but that's not the same as saying that "their" Covent Garden should be the People's Opera. Smith is right, of course, and they are wrong; but it is their money which allows the Opera House to do much of what it does. Will they enjoy rubbing shoulders with people who think of opera as football theme music? They are now face to face with the true meaning of "inclusion"; you can have what you like, but you may have to share some of it with people you don't like. In the next few months we will begin to see just how "new" some of Labour's rich new friends really are.

Even more sticky is the question of what to do about independent, fee-paying schools. Most of them are day schools; many of them related to be in the state sector. Relatively few are of the great historic boarding school stamp.

Let me declare an interest; my own children, by dint of hard work and talent, qualified for entry to one of the five most successful schools in the country. It used to be the grammar school in my area when I was a child; it is now independent. I knew, at the age of 11, that its pupils were different; when my school met them in *Top of the Form*, having given us a sound thrashing they gave

us three "hurrahs", whilst we shouted "hooray". But they've changed. Now they too say "hooray"; they play sports against local schools; and this is probably the most genuinely multicultural school I've seen in this country (and I've filmed in dozens over the years). It would have been perverse to have turned down the chance for my own children to benefit from what the school has to offer, purely because money is involved. And in London we are not unusual; the crisis in our capital's schools is now so extreme that one-sixth of parents choose to pay for education even if they can scarcely afford it. All the independent schools are hugely oversubscribed. It's not surprising, when you are told that local state schools cannot guarantee uninterrupted schooling, that five GCSEs is regarded as an outstanding performance, and that the school can't afford set texts. Though there are no available statistics, the anecdotal evidence suggests that desire for what independent schools offer is strongest amongst those who regard themselves as most disadvantaged and excluded: the ethnic minorities.

Getting rid of the independents won't solve the problems of the state schools. And there is little or no proof that an injection of middle-class energy to a state school will lift results for all; it is just as likely that, as with most public services, the middle classes will

bully their way into soaking up a disproportionate share of publicly funded resources. But something clearly has to be done to avoid the growth of educational apartheid. That is why the speech by the Education Minister, Stephen Byers, to the conference of the Girls' Schools Association was so cunning. He was clear that killing the independent schools was off the agenda, thus comforting the people who pay, but he also made it clear with carrot and implied stick that they would have to share, or else the "leave-'em-alone" policy might have to be revised.

Suggestions that private hospitals will also have to play their part in meeting the beds crisis in the NHS reinforce the suspicion that the public-private partnership which ministers talk about involves more than handing public resources to private shareholders.

Here, perhaps, is one of the building blocks of Blair's "third way". Those with money may well be allowed to retain the privileges that money can buy; but where these involve using public goods – land, culture, information, there's no exclusive lease. We middle classes may not pay extra taxes, but we are going to have to find ways of sharing our good fortune with everyone else; we can have our cake, and we can eat it – but we've had a clear warning that there will be new diners at the table and that we shall have to provide for them.

SEWILLS  
Chromometer, Watch and Nautical Instrument Maker to  
The Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty

## Spoil yourself with the gift of time.

For your FREE brochures containing over 150 Watches, Chronometers, Clocks, Barometers and Barographs complete the coupon or phone on:

**0151 708 0099**  
Quote ref: IN 29-11

**Sewills**  
Maker to the Admiralty  
— Estd 1800ad —

Or fax us on: 0151 708 6777. we will do the rest.

POST TO SEWILLS,  
Please send your colour brochures to me  
Name: (Mr/Mrs/Ms.)  
Address:  
Postcode:

CORNHILL HOUSE  
24 CORNHILL  
LIVERPOOL, L1 8DZ



## Barbara

Monique Serf (Barbara), singer and songwriter: born Paris 9 June 1930; died Paris (Neuilly) 25 November 1997.

She would start her first number sitting at a sinfully black grand piano. Arrayed all in black, with dead white face and hands, she attacked her first number, her left hand implacably hammering out the strange harmonies of the bass. Then a little-girl voice, barely audible, began to drift through the enigmatic lyric she had composed only for herself, and for her voice alone. For the second verse, accompanied by accordion, guitar or Didier Lockwood's violin, she would rise from her lakeside of keys and it was like a wraith from *Giselle* lingering over her mystic tomb, Gothic, romantic.

Barbara possessed remarkable breath control, for her voice seemed to float on a minimum of the air required by mortal men, and her lips hardly moved. Unless one knew the text by heart, as all the fans did, it was often difficult to catch the words: one sometimes felt, as when listening to the relentless mutterings of Françoise Sagan, that one needed a decoder.

But Barbara had been trained at the Conservatoire de Paris, where she had won two prizes for classical singing, and she could also declaim her words with true dramatic force and vocal power, as at the end of certain songs, when she would throw up her left arm, contorting it like a boa constrictor, then flinging back her head to expose a defenceless throat above which a square jaw supported the tireless mask of her exhaustion.

Despite her excellent training, Barbara found it difficult to get work. Perhaps in that post-war period people were looking for someone to make them forget the dark past, not to remind them of sadness, loneliness, heartbreak and death. So she was practically unknown for 15 years, working in a murky Br-

sels night-club before making obscure beginnings as *"La Chanteuse de Minuit"*. She stayed there five years (1958-63) singing Brasseur, Ferré, Brel, Ferrat, then the *fin-de-siècle* favourites whose sinister humour suited her style.

One of the composers of that period had been British, the bilingual Harry Fragson, a great favourite of the café concert, who wrote some famous chansons including the immortal *"Reviens"*. Barbara was also attracted to the ditties of Léon Xanrof, who composed the equally immortal songs of Yvette Guilbert, *"Madame Arthur"* and *"Le Flacré"*, as well as the more sentimental *"Réve de Valse"*, all neatly interpreted by Barbara, though Guilbert had been a *diseuse* rather than a *chanteuse*.

Barbara had begun trying her own hand at composition, and in 1963 gave a recital that revealed her to a much wider public, singing *"Dis, quand viendras-tu?"*, *"Chapeau bas"* and *"Le Temps du Lilas"*. She made her first appearances at the old Bobino and at that great shrine of the chanson (recently reopened after tactful refurbishing), the Olympia. She produced one of her most truly popular songs, *"Ma plus belle histoire d'amour, c'est vous"* which she would address at the end of every concert to a delirious audience, enraptured by the parting thought that they and only they were the ones she really loved. She was irresistible, and President François Mitterrand himself adopted her as his favourite singer: he would invite her to the Elysée dinners to sing for his guests and arranged for her to receive the grand reward of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Mitterrand was a moderate socialist, but Barbara had more extreme left-wing tendencies, which endeared her to the French Communist leader Georges Marchais and the Communist newspaper *L'Humanité*. Barbara often made appearances with Colette

Magny, Jean Ferrat and other left-wing entertainers, and she supported campaigns for victims of Aids, of child slavery, racism, sexism, harsh immigration laws. The titles of her songs became more and more ominous, and often included the colour black which she called "a festival of colour".

Dedicated fans discussed her tall, emaciated figure and well-cut robes, saying "Black suits her so well." She became known as *"La Dame en Noir"* and sang sombre chansons like *"La Dame brune"*, *"Le Mal de vivre"*, *"Les Amours incestueuses"*. Two of her songs, *"La Louve"* ("The She-Wolf") and *"L'Aigle Noir"* ("The Black Eagle"), fitted her own appearance on stage.

Photographed full face she often looked ambisexual, but in profile she became, with her hawk-like nose and bold jawline, heavily made-up eyes glittering in that chalk-white mask, like a black eagle or a prowling beast of prey. Her love affairs were unhappy (*"Mes Hommes"*) and the passions of a *ferme fatale* in despair were reflected in many dark hymns like *"Le Soleil noir"* ("Black Sun") inspired by Gérard de Nerval's sonnet *"El Desdichado"* ("The Ill-Fated"): My one star is dead - and my love's constellations bear the black sun of melancholia.

She slowly dropped out of sight, with only occasional returns to the stage - I saw her in 1987 at the Châtelet, her last full public appearance in Paris, all in black, the entire audience in tears after being cheered up a little by her *"Petit Bois de Saint-Amand"*, based on a classic Bach theme and interspersed with perky little quotes from a nursery rhyme. She was most heartbreaking when she tried to smile and be gay.

*"La Grande Dame de la Chanson"* has bequeathed to us a treasury of records and albums. Sales of her last album, *Barbara*, recorded in 1996 between bouts of asthma, are approaching one million.

- James Kirkup



'La Dame en Noir': Barbara in 1987

Photograph: B. Rheims / Sygma

## Frank Mulville

Frank Nugent Blood Mulville, writer and yachtsman: born Dinard, France 1 January 1924; married first Mary Watson (one daughter; marriage dissolved), secondly Celia Foster (two sons; marriage dissolved), thirdly Wendy Slack; died Malden, Essex 3 November 1997.

Frank Mulville will be remembered as one of Britain's finest sea writers. His nine books are largely accounts of his own life and travels on salt water. His observations and fearless self-analysis raise them to the level of literature.

He was the youngest of seven children. His parents had met in Argentina but his early upbringing was in London, in Kensington. Family holidays in Brightonsea introduced him to the smacks and barges that proliferated along the Essex shores in those days. He eked out his childhood winters improving his understanding of sailing theory with models on the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens, and respect for traditional rigs and hull forms stayed with him all his life.

Times were hard for the Mulvilles during the Depression and in due course Frank found himself on a ship back to Argentina with his father. His book *North Star to Southern Cross* (1993), winner of the "Best Book of the Sea" award, recounts the agonies suffered by a susceptible foreign youth in a Spanish-speaking boarding school, contrasting them with periods of freedom on the pampas among the gauchos.

At the commencement of the Second World War, Mulville was back in London at St Paul's School, which he promptly left to apprentice himself to the Blue Star Line. In 1943, his ship was torpedoed and he organised a sailing rig for a lifeboat he shared with 45 survivors. Later in the war, he acquired *Ratny*, a sailing dinghy which he used as a tender for the tug aboard which he now served as an RNVR lieutenant.

He married for the first time soon after the war, but employment was hard to find. He tried window cleaning, journalism, selling pressure cookers, and founded a secretarial service which turned into a printing firm and is still in business. Two yachts followed, with voyages to Spain and Holland, but it was aboard his third boat, *Girl Stella*, a converted Looe fishing smack, that he made his name as a sailor.

A lifelong socialist and a member of the Labour Party, Mulville determined to discover the truth about early post-revolution Cuba for himself. He sailed across the Atlantic with his second wife, Celia, and their two sons, Patrick and Adrian. The writing that came out of this experience and a subsequent single-handed voyage to Cuba with his final boat *Iskra* (*In Grandma's Wake*, 1970, and *Dear Dolphin*, 1991) ranks among the most thought-provoking work of its kind. His description of life in a cane-cutting brigade, toiling with his comrades until they dropped in the dust and heat "for the Revolution" is particularly powerful. *Girl Stella* was lost in a traumatic shipwreck in the Azores.

It was at one of the lowest ebbs in the life of this creative man that he found the 30ft *Iskra*, a traditional wooden cutter built in 1930. Her workaday good looks appealed to his nonsense seaman and his easy relationship with her lasted for the remainder of his life. In her, he and Wendy, his third wife, sailed the Atlantic from the Arctic Circle to Buenos Aires. The stories of their many voyages run through his later books.

It is interesting to speculate how a man of Frank Mulville's curtailed formal education contrived to write with such sensitivity and technical skill. He himself had no doubts:

Just as the ocean wears away the rocks and bends the contour of the shore to its will, so it washes over a man's mind, smoothing the sharp edges, knocking off the conceits, flattening the prejudices so that he is left with a different instrument with which to govern his life.

- Tom Cunliffe

## The Right Rev Hugh Gough

Hugh Rowlands Gough, priest: born 19 September 1905; ordained deacon 1928, priest 1929; OBE 1945; Vicar of Islington 1946-48; Prelate, St Paul's Cathedral 1948; Archdeacon of West Ham 1948-58; Suffragan Bishop of Barking 1948-59; Archbishop of Sydney (Metropolitan of New South Wales) 1958-66; Primate of Australia 1959-66; Chaplain and Sub-Prelate, Order of St John of Jerusalem 1959-72; CMG 1965; Rector of Freshford 1967-72; Vicar of Limpsie 1970-72; married 1929 The Hon Madeline Kinnaird (one daughter); died Over Wallop, Hampshire 13 November 1997.

Hugh Gough was the last bishop to come direct from England to a Metropolitan See in Australia. He was appointed Archbishop of Sydney in 1958 and left an enduring mark on the church he had come to serve.

Gough never ceased to be "pukka" English, but he fell in love with Australia as a country still rich in adventure and excitement. He and his wife arrived in Sydney in May 1959 and soon began to make their mark. His style of leadership was quite new where clergy were concerned: it took them by storm. They never came to know him, or he them, as intimately as his predecessor, Archbishop Mowll, but they liked his direct manner and clipped style of conversation.

Gough had no previous ex-

perience of church government through an annual synod and its standing committees and he never really adjusted to this democratic system. He moved his office from Church House to Bishopscourt, where he carried out routine administration and correspondence with the help of a domestic chaplain and personal assistant. But this made him more remote and less accessible for the ordinary clergyman.

He held a regular meeting of his bishops and archdeacons: this kept him informed about diocesan needs and problems. He delegated responsibility and willingly trusted colleagues to carry on at their own discretion - his most constructive decision was to appoint a commission to examine the structures and finances of the diocese.

Gough was too outspoken to escape media criticism. He was always prone to act first, and then reflect later. The *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Daily Telegraph* treated him with dignity and respect, but he was subjected to a long and hostile campaign in the pages of the Anglican and in some secular publications such as *Nation*.

Hugh Gough came from a strong Evangelical background. He was born in 1905 in the then undivided continent of India, where his father was a Church Missionary Society (CMS) missionary on the North-West Frontier. School at Weymouth in Dorset led on to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he became President of the Cambridge Inter-collegiate Christian Union and took his degree

in 1927. After 12 months at the London College of Divinity, he was made deacon in 1928 and ordained to the priesthood in 1929. A curacy in Islington was followed by parish appointments at Bath, Bayswater and Carlisle. He served with distinction as an Army Chaplain and then, in 1946, became vicar of St Mary's, Islington, until 1948, when he was consecrated as Bishop of Barking in the diocese of Chelmsford.

He had been the first Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Varsity Fellowship, was closely associated with the Evangelical Alliance, often spoke at the Keswick Convention and was one of those who issued the invitation to Billy Graham for the Harringay Crusade of 1954.

No other bishop would identify himself with Billy Graham or support the Crusade until Archbishop Fisher took his seat on the platform for the final meeting. But Gough had taken his stand without regard of the cost in official favour; he was the rising hope of all evangelicals in the Fifties but his election as Archbishop of Sydney took him away from England.

He was elected to the Primacy of Australia by the Diocesan Bishops in October 1959 and he filled this role in a way that won well-deserved respect. The new Constitution for the Church in Australia came into effect on 1 January 1962 and it fell to Gough to preside over the first General Synod in May that year. As Primate he travelled widely in Australia, at-

tended the World Council of Churches General Assembly at New Delhi in 1961, and took part in the Anglican Congress at Toronto in 1963. He carried out visits to CMS in Pakistan in 1964 and to the Australian Armed Forces in Malaya and Vietnam in 1965.

But the nervous strain of seven strenuous years took their toll in a serious breakdown in health early in 1966 and he resigned from the See, just seven years after his enthronement. For a short time, he was vicar of the little parish of Freshford in the diocese of Bath and Wells; then he retired altogether and made his home first in Bath and then in the Hampshire village of Over Wallop.

Those who knew him well will never forget the warmth of



Gough: evangelical

his friendship or his courage in adversity. He had a high and adventurous spirit, coupled with a very humble loyalty and devotion. He kept in touch with Sydney visitors in his home and followed church life in Sydney with unfailing interest.

- M. L. Loane

## FAITH & REASON

### A cry in the dark from Muslim youth

Unnoticed by the media, an *intifada* has already begun on the streets of Britain, says Fud Nohdi, editor of the Muslim newspaper *Q-News*. To prevent its growth society must find a way of listening to the voice of young British Islam.

The launching of the Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) last week was an initiative forged by a community that, despite the odds, is showing signs of both growth and maturity. In one sense last Sunday's gathering was celebratory - nothing more than an assembly of the converted. But the powerful call it made for "Muslim unity" may prove of real significance.

The atmosphere at the MCB inaugural convention was part therapy, part euphoria. It was an opportunity for the mostly middle-aged men who are mosque- and institution-oriented to meet and hug each other again - part of an elaborate ritual of self-congratulation and self-assurance. But, within a community consisting of more than 56 nationalities, questions are always going to be asked about any group which sets itself up as either an

"umbrella body" or "a representative" organisation.

The idea of setting up a representative body for British Muslims has been tried before. In the mid-Seventies Dr Syed Pasha formed the Union of Muslim Organisations (UMO), a body largely of first-generation professionals interested in formulating links with the British government rather than in representing grass-roots Muslims in Britain. In the Nineties the late Dr Kalim Siddiqui set up the Muslim Parliament, which despite its name was not an elected body and which consisted mostly of first-generation activists. The MCB has therefore set out to work as an independent body beholden to no one outside Britain, and its broad-based approach and emphasis on the promotion of Muslim "co-operation, consensus and unity" should make it more appealing to the second generation of British Muslims than its rivals.

Certainly there is a pressing need, felt by both Muslims and a substantial body of non-Muslims in the country, to give British Muslims an articulate, moderate and relevant voice. This need is perhaps best pondered in the light of what might happen if British Muslims continue to cry in the dark.

Recent reports, including one by the Policy Studies Institute, have provided

ample evidence of the deprivation and disenfranchisement faced by the Muslim community. Muslims, both men and women, face more prejudice and discrimination than any other community when it comes to employment and the provision of housing and health care services. Perhaps the most blatant of all institutional anti-Muslim discrimination in modern Britain is the denial of state funding for Muslim schools.

Islamophobia, as Professor Gordon Conway, chair of the Runnymede Trust report on the subject recently said, is a "real and growing phenomenon - an ugly word for an ugly reality". The pervasive hatred of Islam and Muslims across all sections of British society is a serious matter that needs to be tackled with urgency and solid commitment. Yet the Muslim community, caught in a vicious web of poverty and systemic disadvantage, is bewildered and in no position to deal with the multiple socioeconomic disadvantages affecting it.

Responsible imams, community leaders and activists cannot stop the tide of young people turning to criminality and extremism. Platoons of young angry Muslims are mushrooming all over the country. Twisted and disfigured by the twin evils of racism and Islamophobia, they are bitter and resentful - potential fifth-column guerrillas for the numerous

causes in the Muslim world. Idle hands and heads are also vulnerable to simplistic and demagogic slogans.

Though the media may not yet have noted the fact, the *intifada* in the inner cities of Britain has already begun: last summer young Muslim people were involved in at least 14 violent incidents with the authorities. "Shaping the future of Islam in Britain," Khalida Khan, a keynote speaker, told the MCB gathering, "depends very much on shaping individuals to become Muslims in their faith and spirituality, ethics and morality, deeds, community life and most important of all, in their identity."

The building of a British Islam will have to be founded upon a new realisation - that in the UK Muslims cannot operate as if they are a majority; they have to rediscover a theology and Islamic jurisprudence suited to a minority living in a multi-faith and multi-cultural society. But they also need the help of the rest of society in combating Islamophobia, particularly at the point where it prevents Muslims and non-Muslims cooperating on the joint diagnosis and solution of major shared problems relating to urban poverty and deprivation. The alternative may be too frightening to contemplate.

- Faith & Reason is edited by Paul Valley

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1, Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL, telephoned to 071-231 2001 (24-hour answering machine), 071-231 2002 or faxed to 071-231 2003, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). (Some Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, obituaries, marriages, marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £6 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 071-231 2000.

#### Appointments

Mr Dick Jenkins, to be ambassador to the Republic of Georgia. Mr Michael Dobbins, to be High Commissioner to the Republic of Fiji. Mr Christopher Peter Tootal, to be Chairman of the Copyright Tribunal. Mr Stephen Price Richards, to be a Justice of the High Court assigned to the Queen's Bench Division. Mr Nicholas Richard Purniffray QC, to be a Justice of the High Court assigned to the Chancery Division. Mr Hugh Bernard Harwood Carlisle QC, to be part-time President of the Transport Tribunal.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

TODAY: Princess Margaret, President of the Guide Association, attends the North East England Guide Association Advent Service in York. TOMORROW: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Souths Open, matches at Twickenham, at the Palace of Westminster, Edinburgh.

Changing of the Guard  
TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment escorts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. Tomorrow: The Household Cavalry Guard escorts the Queen's Guard at Buckingham Palace, 11am. (Both provided by the Queen's Guard). TOMORROW: The Household Cavalry Guard escorts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

#### Birthdays

TODAY: Professor Sir Ivor Bachevalier, psychiatrist, 81; M Jacques Chirac, President of France, 65; Sir Derek Day, former High Commissioner in Canada, 70; Professor Sir Michael Howard, historian, 75; Mr Derek Jameson, radio presenter and former editor, 68; Professor Frank Kermode, literary critic, 78; Mr John Mayall, rhythm and blues musician, 67; Geoffrey Moorhouse, writer, 66; Sir Alan Moses, High Court judge, 52; Lady Porter, former Lord Mayor of Westminster, 67; Professor David Rhind, Director-General and Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey, 54; Mr David Rintoul, actor, 48; Mr David Rogers, chief executive, Astrad, 51; Dame Janet Smith QC, High Court judge, 57; Sir David Steel, former chairman, the Wellcome Trust, 81; Sir Dennis Weatherstone, former chairman and chief executive, J.P. Morgan & Co, New York, 67; Mr Alan Lee Williams, director, Atlantic Council, 67; Miss Louise Winter, operatic mezzo-soprano, 38.

TOMORROW: Mrs Hilary Armstrong, MP Minister for Local Government and Housing, 52; Miss Diana Cotton QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 56; Mr Richard Crenna, film actor, 71; Mr George Duffield, jockey, 51; Mr Roger Glover, rock musician, 52; Sir Victor Goodwood, former MP and government minister, 78; Mr George Graham, football manager, 53; Mr Andy Gray, footballer, 42; Mr Robert Guillaume, singer and actor, 67; Mr Frank Ifield, singer, 61; Mr Louis Klibby, Editor, *UK Mail*, 69; Mr Gary Lister, footballer, 37; Mr Radu Lupu, pianist, 52; Mr Patrick McLoughlin MP, 40; Miss Virginia Mayo, actress, 77; Lord Parry, former chairman of the Welsh Tourist Board, 72; Miss Marguerite Porter, ballerina, 49; Sir Stanley Rees, former High Court judge, 90; Mr Max

Reinhardt, publisher, 82; Mr John Hamilton Scott, Lord-Lieutenant of Shetland, 61; Mr Stan Sulzmann, saxophonist, 49; Lord Tope, former Liberal MP, 54; Mr Ehem Zimbalist Jr, television and film actor, 74.

#### Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: John Harvard, founder of the University, baptised 1607; Gertrude Jekyll, landscape architect, 1843; Carlo Levi, novelist, painter and journalist, 1902; Deshaes Giovanni Bellini (Giambellini), painter, 1516; Thomas Wolsey, Cardinal and Lord Chancellor, 1530; Hans Holbein the Younger, painter, 1543; Giacomo Antonio Domenico Michele Secondo Maria Puccini, composer, 1924. On this day the Eighth Army opened its offensive, 1943. Today is the Feast Day of St Brendan of Birr, St Radbod, St Saturninus or Sennen of Toulouse and St Saturninus, martyr.

TOMORROW: Births: Andrea Palladio, (Andrea di Pietro della Gondola) architect, 1508; Sir Philip Sidney, poet, soldier and courtier, 1554; John Bunyan, writer, baptised, 1628; Jonathan Swift, author, 1667; Deaths: Oscar Fingal O'Flaherty Wills Wilde, playwright, 1900; Joyce Irene Grenfell, entertainer, 1979. On this day: the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, near London, was destroyed by fire, 1936. Today is the Feast Day of St Andrew the Apostle, St Cuthbert Mayne and St Sapor.

#### Lectures

TOMORROW  
Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Symbolism in England (3): G.F. Watts", 3.30pm.  
National Portrait Gallery: J.K.D. Cooper, "Sir John Vanbrugh and Nicholas Hawksmoor", 3pm.



## Shield Diagnostics shares rise as rumours link it with Abbott

## MARKET REPORT



CATHY NEWMAN

Dealers were yesterday taking the pulse of **Shield Diagnostics**, the biotechnology company developing **Activated Factor Twelve (AFT)**, a test for heart disease.

Lawyers are believed to be finalising a deal for the commercialisation of the test, which Shield may announce at its results next month. Market sources are betting that the partner for the deal will be Abbott Laboratories, the Chicago-based group, with which Shield has been involved in the past. There is a rumour that Abbott may take a stake in Shield as part of the venture. Shield's shares shot up 12.5p to 697.5p.

The diagnostic test will, Shield hopes, provide an alternative to cholesterol testing as a means of detecting susceptibility to heart attacks. Moreover, analysts reckon the

test could eventually be used to measure the risk of someone having a stroke.

It would not be a surprise to see Shield teaming up with Abbott, which has around 40 per cent of the diagnostics market. Gordon Hall, Shield's erstwhile managing director who has stayed on as an adviser, used to work at Abbott.

Shield's shares plummeted last month after he announced his unexpected resignation. A partnership with Abbott would revive the stock, but, as diagnostics experts point out, it would be at least a year before the test could be sold into the market in a big way.

The insurance sector is beginning to overboil. The likes of Commercial Union have been having a field day during the past week, but the situation seemed to have taken a turn for the worse yesterday. CU was

one of the least-wanted blue chips, down 37p to 815p, after HSBC James Cagney said it

HSEB James Capel said it was looking pricey if a bid failed to materialise. It dragged other former favourites in its wake, Prudential Corporation dropped 20p to 638p and GRE shed 16.75n to 285n.

During the past week in particular, UK insurers have been given a boost by corporate activity in continental Europe. BAT Industries' financial services arm merged with Zurich Insurance last month, and now a big battle for the French group, AGF, is titillating the sector. However, despite Capel's bearish stance, other analysts say the UK stocks look undervalued.

A minority of insurance stocks did manage to buck yesterday's downward trend. The **Independent Insurance Group** improved by 37.5p to £10.90.

and preferred bid target London & Manchester Group climbed 8p to 508p.

Fears of an interest rate rise in advance of next week's Monetary Policy Committee meeting drove the pound higher and caused grief for exporters. Comments to the Treasury Select Committee by the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George

**Share Spotlight**  
share price, pence

Year	Share Price (pence)
1990	100
1991	750
1992	100
1993	700
1994	200
1995	700
1996	200
1997	200
1998	200
1999	200

Month	Revenue (Millions)
D	100
J	200
F	250
M	250
A	300
M	350
J	350
J	350
A	350
S	350
O	350
N	350

Source: Datapoint

also pushed sterling up. Smiths Industries eased 24p to 774p and GKN shed 14p to 112p.

to 714p, and GKN shed 14p to £12.87. Interest rate-related worries also saw retailers left on the shelf. Dixons closed 21.5p poorer at 673.5p and Great Universal Stores tumbling 15p to 695p ahead of results next week. Talk of a National West downgrade of the sector also did not help matters.

Footsie was in the doldrums all day yesterday, and refused to be revived by Wall Street. It closed at a low for the day of 4831.8, down 57.2 points, and it didn't once manage to cross the 4990 barrier.

**Laura Ashley** found itself out of fashion too. It dropped to an all-time low, easing 4p

to 41.5p, after the house broker, Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, reportedly priced it

son, reportedly upset by the losses forecast for the year ending January 1998. Ann Iverson, who was ousted as chief executive earlier this month, had been expanding into North America. But that strategy was overturned after she was replaced by David Hoare, formerly chief operating officer.

Viglen Technology, the computer group which was previously part of Amstrad, was another third line casualty. The company warned at its annual general meeting that margins would continue to be eroded as PC prices were

**Intel**, the electronic manufacturer, saw its share jump 3.75p to 15.75p after a upbeat statement on its order book.

## TAKING STOCK

**Christopher Moore, chief executive of Torex Group, the computer software and services company, yesterday made almost £200,000 by selling 300,000 shares at 72.5p each.**

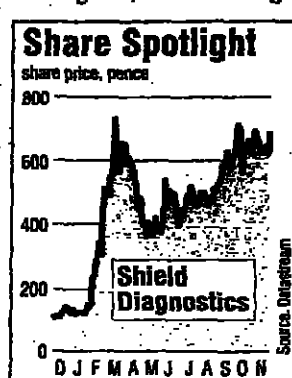
He said the money would be used to pay a personal tax bill. Mr Moore now controls 7.91 per cent of the company.

**Camco Corporation** got off to a roaring start in trading on Olex.

The company, which is involved in commercial and industrial activities in Central Asia, leapt 34.5p to 104 5p.

Camco operates in particular in Kyrgyzstan, formerly part of the USSR.

It has permits for joint ventures with groups based in Kyrgyzstan to produce and distribute low technology goods.

[illegible]



## Samsung delays second phase of £450m investment in English factory

Samsung, the biggest industrial conglomerate in South Korea, has postponed building the next phase of its £450m electronics investment in North-east England as Korean corporations scramble to pull back from overseas expansion in the face of a crippling financial crisis.

Richard Lloyd Parry in Seoul and Chris Goddard in London report on Samsung's decision, which could cost some 2,000 jobs and further undermine confidence in the ability of Korean firms to deliver on their investment plans.

Senior Samsung executives in Korea yesterday said the British government was told more than five months ago that further investment at Wymondley Park, between Stockton and Hartlepool, was not viable. The group blamed the weakening business climate, as well as the declining credit of Korean companies with international lenders.

The project is the second phase of a two-part investment which was greeted as a "wonderful opportunity" by Michael Heseltine, then president of the Board of Trade, when it was announced in October 1994. Mr Heseltine said the project was "as significant as the early wave of large-scale Japanese investments" in the UK.

Samsung Europe said £130m had been spent on a training centre and on factories producing microwave ovens and colour monitors, which between them employ 900 people. The Korean giant also has a factory at nearby Billingham making television sets. But the centrepiece of the scheme, a plant making semiconductors, personal computers and fax machines and employing 2,000, has been postponed indefinitely.

Samsung executives in Korea said the additional investment would have been £1.4bn (£875m), though a spokesman for the company's European operations insisted the whole site was estimated to cost £450m.

The group said the collapse in the value of the Korean won and a world-wide loss of trust in the creditworthiness of the country's firms after a wave of bankruptcies made it difficult to raise the money needed for the investment. Samsung has also been hit by a plunge in computer chip prices in a market plagued by worldwide overproduction.

"When we first proposed this, things looked very rosy," said Moon Dong Shik, Samsung's executive of globalisation. "All of a sudden came this oversupply. We could build the factory, but that would be a crazy decision. It would be very dishonest and we would deceive a lot of people by saying that we were going to invest that."

In theory, plans for the plant could be revived if the Korean economy improves and semiconductor prices go up. "If we made an investment of semiconductors in Europe it would always be in the UK," said Mr Moon. "But we don't have a very optimistic prospect for the next two or three years."

The Department of Trade and Industry last night confirmed it had been given advance warning of Samsung's deliberations. A spokesman said the DTI had been "kept informed that Samsung were reviewing their North-east project". But the spokesman said: "We have not received today's announcements from Samsung."

The spokesman said the DTI had not revealed the threat to the investment before now because to do so would have been "commercially confidential". Peter Man-

derson, the local MP and Minister Without Portfolio, was travelling abroad yesterday and could not be contacted for comment.

The news was greeted with surprise on Teesside, where the second phase of the investment was seen as the key to bringing in further Korean components makers. Already three other Korean firms have set up as suppliers to Samsung nearby.

Dave Wood from the Tees Valley Development Company, a council-backed organisation promoting inward investment, said: "I suppose it doesn't come as a total shock, given the drop in the world-wide semiconductor market. But it is surprising that they told the Government and the news did not get to us."

The scale of Government grants for the project has never been disclosed, though the aid package was structured in phases as the different stages of the investment were completed. Local authorities were offering a further £5m of grants to Samsung, provided the group gave permanent jobs to unemployed workers.

Mr Wood said the creation of a further 2,000 jobs was central to the drive to reduce unemployment in the Tees Valley, which stands at more than 9 per cent and almost double the national average.

Samsung's decision is even more surprising given that three days ago Cheong Shin, chief executive of Samsung Europe, issued a statement saying the conglomerate remained "fully committed" to all its overseas operations, including Wymondley Park. Two months ago Samsung further demonstrated its commitment by announcing another £5m investment at Wymondley Park to extend microwave production capacity. It has boosted production from an expected 740,000 this year to more than 1 million ovens in 1998.

One council official on Teesside said confusion surrounded the future of the project. "Our biggest problem is getting information out of Samsung. Relations are cordial, but they are peculiarly secretive. It's almost impossible to get anything out of them about their plans."

The comments follow Samsung's announcement last week of an unprecedented restructuring programme, involving a 30 per cent cut in investment, reductions in executive pay, the merging of departments and the sale or closure of unprofitable businesses.

"It's a matter of survival," said Hwang Young Key, senior managing director and chief of staff in Samsung's finance group yesterday. "The problem with corporate Korea overall is high growth based on high leverage. This formula worked successfully in the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties, but in the Nineties we should have realised earlier that it will not be able to deliver success in the 21st century."

Yesterday a spokesman for another conglomerate, Daewoo, said operations at the company's VCR factory in Antrim, Northern Ireland, would be reviewed as part of a world-wide assessment of company operations. Hyundai was also reported this week to have delayed investment in a £3bn semiconductor plant in Dundermole, Scotland. Of the four big Korean conglomerates, only LG, which has a \$4.5bn project in South Wales, insists that its investments in Britain will not be affected.

Diplomats in Seoul are waiting nervously for the outcome of negotiations between the South Korean government and the IMF over the terms of the bail-out. On Thursday, the Korean finance minister, Lim Chang Yul, acknowledged that the \$20bn which Seoul initially requested would not be enough to cover short-term debts.



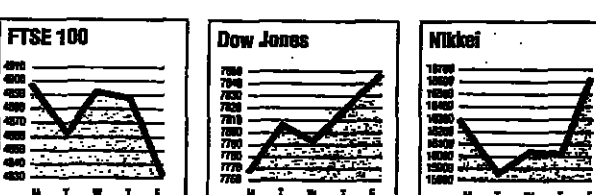
Indiana Jane: Lara Croft, star of Tomb Raider II, may have to dig Eidos out of financial trouble

## Has Lara Croft at last passed her sell-by date?

Eidos, the computer software group, is relying on the success of the long-awaited sequel to its best-selling game, Tomb Raider, to dig itself out of financial trouble after announcing a £18.3m loss yesterday for the six months to September. Tomb Raider II, starring the wild child fictional character Lara Croft, was released in the UK yesterday, following its launch in the US last week. It already appears to be beating sales expectations. HMV and the Electronics Boutique in London opened their doors at midnight on Thursday to meet demand for the product: "This is going to be the Christmas number one. We've already sold 200 this morning. The queues for this are unbelievable," said Michael Young, an assistant at Oxford Street's Electronics Boutique. Eidos' shares fell 25p to 655p yesterday after "extremely disappointing" sales of two other computer games and a rise in losses from £12.5m last half. However, the group said it had orders for 1.5 million Tomb Raider II units world-wide. Analysts were yesterday expecting Tomb II sales in the first year to beat the original Tomb Raider's 2.5 million units and predicted the group would make £9m profit in the full year. Asked if Lara, like the Spice Girls, might be nearing her sell-by date, Charles Cornwall, Eidos' chief executive replied stiffly: "Lara can't be talked about in the same sentence as the Spice Girls. She's a hip Indiana Jane." Meanwhile, Hornby, a rather more traditional toy company, is struggling to steam into the modern age. The maker of model railways and Scalextric racing cars said yesterday the strong pound had put the brakes on half-year profits, which fell from £1.1m to £973,000, but concentrating on the two core products would reap future benefits. Peter Newey, chairman, said it was too early to say how Christmas trading was going.

Sameena Ahmad and John Willcock

## STOCK MARKETS



FTSE 100

Index	Close	Change	Change%	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield%
FTSE 100	4831.80	-57.20	-1.17	5367.30	3882.70	3.64
FTSE 250	4686.70	-1.60	-0.03	4963.80	4321.80	3.43
FTSE 350	2388.80	-22.40	-0.95	2570.50	1935.70	3.60
FTSE All Share	2288.64	-20.33	-0.88	2507.68	1942.22	3.59
FTSE SmallCap	2272.1	2.10	0.09	2407.40	2127.50	3.40
FTSE Fidelity	1240.1	2.20	0.18	1348.50	1198.70	3.40
FTSE AIM	967.5	-0.20	-0.02	1138.00	895.90	1.07
Dow Jones	7848.74	52.22	0.67	8299.03	6236.05	1.74
Nikkei	16636.25	33.08	0.20	21289.88	14998.13	0.93
Hong Kong	10226.92	-56.18	-0.53	16820.51	8776.68	4.03
Dax	3949.14	-4.70	-0.12	4456.89	2760.76	2.02

## INTEREST RATES



Money Market Rates

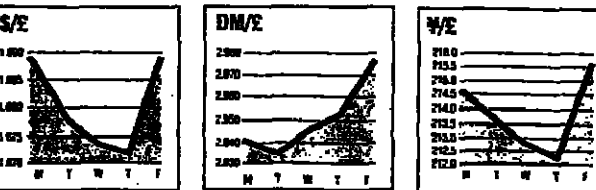
Index	3 month	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr	1 yr
UK	7.75	1.32	7.93	0.85	6.50	-0.54	6.23
US	4.90	0.40	6.01	0.32	5.85	-0.19	6.04
Japan	0.59	0.11	0.67	0.05	1.96	-0.25	2.62
Germany	3.76	0.51	4.09	0.75	5.45	-0.30	6.04

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises

Index	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chg
California Invest	880.00	34.00	5.18	Smith Barney	550.00	-50.00	-8.33
BS PLC	284.00	12.50	4.40	Schroders PLC	1706.00	-164.00	-9.61
Lloyds PLC	61.00	3.50	4.00	Glaxo Wellcome	1300	-78	-5.69
Woodward PLC	302.50	11.50	3.85	Guardian Royal	285	-16.75	-5.88

## CURRENCIES



Pound

Index	Chg	% Chg	Yr Ago	Dollar	Chg	% Chg	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6892	+1.68c	1.6820	Swiss	0.5320	-0.58c	0.5645
D-Mark	2.9791	+2.66c	2.9757	D-Mark	1.7845	-0.12p	1.9326
Yen	215.59	+13.29	191.85	Yen	127.60	+10.86	113.88
£ Index	105.00	+0.90	94.00	£ Index	107.30	+0.10	97.30

## OTHER INDICATORS

at 11pm

Index	Chg	% Chg	Yr Ago	Index	Chg	% Chg	Yr Ago
Brent Oil (\$)	18.72	0.16	22.51	GDP	113.90	3.80	109.77
Gold (\$)	298.85	0.40	371.65	RPI	159.50	3.7	153.81
Silver (\$)	5.30	0.09	4.73	Basis Rates	7.25	6.00	

www.bloomberg.com

source: Bloomberg

## Consumers benefit as computer hardware prices plummet

The cost of kitting yourself out with a powerful, multimedia computer is dropping almost as fast as Asian stock prices these days.

A year ago £1,000 would have bought a machine with half the working memory, half the hard disk size and something three times as slow as that cash would buy today. Prices of pentium II MMX computers - the type of hi-tech machine that takes 3-D graphics and high-quality sound in its stride - have dropped by 50 per cent in the last year.

A four-speed CD-Rom cost £100 in the summer. Today shoppers can pick up one that is six times as fast for half the price. And the best is yet to come for computer buffs prepared to hang on.

According to Phil Burnham of Romtec, which monitors trends and prices in the UK PC market, Intel the giant US computer chip company is planning to slash the price of Pentium II processors next January and again in April. For consumers, the precipitous decline in prices - the result of retailers winding down stocks in readiness for the latest technology and continuing overcapacity in the market for computer components and semiconductors - is obviously welcome news.

For those companies supplying components and selling computers, it means thinning margins and falling profits. Viglen, demerged from Amstrad, is the latest casualty. Just a month after announcing disappointing full-year figures, the

company warned yesterday that oversupply of computer components was forcing it to cut prices, hitting margins, though sales volumes were still rising. Shares in the company crashed almost one-third from 50p to 22.5p. The problem is industry-wide.

The UK computer group RM and the US group Gateway have all announced pricing pressures in the last few weeks. David Moore, marketing manager at Dell Computers, the number two direct-to-consumer supplier of computers in the UK agrees: "Everyone is competing on price. The market is incredibly aggressive. The only way for companies to win is keep costs low and sell high-quality products where prices are holding up."

Sameena Ahmad

## Mutuals turn up the heat on would-be carpetbaggers

Building societies yesterday called for stronger defences against carpetbaggers as they faced further attempts to force them convert to banks and distribute billions of pounds of reserves to members. As Andrew Verity reports, the societies fear continual carpetbagging will damage their business unless the rules are toughened.

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said renewed attempts by Michael Hardern, self-styled carpetbagger-in-chief, to be nominated to run in boardroom elections at three mutual building societies, posed the threat of continual disruption to their business for years to come.

The former royal butler this week announced he is seeking to run for election at Bradford & Bingley, Britannia and Chelsea building societies. Mr Hardern, who in July was overwhelmingly defeated in elections to the board of Na-

tionwide, needs only 50 members to sign his nomination in order to run for a boardroom post.

Building societies believe there is little likelihood of Mr Hardern and his pressure group, Members for Conversion, getting elected. But they fear that the tiny number of signatures required makes it too easy for carpetbaggers to disrupt their business.

Adrian Coles, director general of the BSA, yesterday said: "There is no way of stopping Mr Hardern, who came bottom of the poll in the Nationwide elections, from getting publicity and trying to get 50 signatures. It seems a ludicrously small number for a building society with millions of members."

He added: "It is actually going to be difficult to run a mutual society if every year you have fundamental problems like this. Elections could happen in 1998, 1999 and 2000. You couldn't run the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly on the basis of a referendum every year."

In the run-up to the Nationwide board elections in July, building societies began urging Helen Liddell,

economic secretary to the Treasury, to help defend their mutual status by toughening rules on elections to the board.

Mrs Liddell was asked to raise the required number of signatures on an election nomination from 50 to 350. She demurred, saying a change would make building society directors less accountable to the membership.

Kevin McGuinness, company secretary at the Bradford & Bingley, said accountability had been dealt with. "We already began last year to require directors to seek election. We want to see a more realistic number of members to be required to nominate someone for an election," he said.

Mr Hardern is understood to be running as a sole candidate and is asking for members to back his own decisions in nominating further candidates for election. Without a majority, it is unlikely that Members for Conversion could force Bradford & Bingley's board to propose a vote on conversion, which would be accompanied by windfall shares worth approximately £1,000 to every member.

## BZW quits Japanese equities business

Barclays, the UK bank, is to close down its Japanese equities business after failing to find a suitable buyer, with the loss of around 100 jobs in Tokyo. Some staff covering Japanese sales desks in other Barclays' offices will also lose their jobs.

Martin Taylor, Barclays' chief executive, put large chunks of BZW, Barclays' investment banking arm, up for sale last month after the business failed to generate adequate returns. Mr Taylor originally intended to sell the businesses as a package, but was forced to adopt a piecemeal approach as potential purchasers dropped one by one out of the bidding race.

CSFB, eventually left as the sole bidder, bought the equities and corporate finance divisions earlier this month at a knockdown price. But the Swiss bank turned up its nose up Barclays' Asian and Australasian activities. The Japanese operation was dubbed "a loser" in a confidential video-conference for CSFB directors.

A spokesperson for Barclays said: "We have talked to number of potential purchasers (for the Japanese equities business) but were not able to come to a mutually satisfactory agreement."

The spokesperson denied that the decision was connected with recent turmoil in Far Eastern markets, saying: "We are happy with the

way the Japanese equities business has fared."

Following the closure of the equities business, Barclays will be left with around 450 staff in Japan, 300 in Barclays Capital and 150 in Barclays Global Investors, its asset management arm.

Another 18 staff in other offices, including London, have also lost their jobs. A Barclays spokesperson would not discuss details of redundancy packages, but said that all employees had been offered "terms commensurate with their contracts".

The former Barclays' employees will be battling in an increasingly competitive labour market for new jobs. Yesterday, Peregrine Investment Holdings, the Hong Kong-based bank, announced it was cutting 275 jobs world-wide.

Barclays said yesterday that the disposal of its remaining Asian equities businesses as well as the wholesale disposal of its Australasian activities were unaffected by yesterday's news. Analysts have expressed doubts that Barclays will be able to sell its Asian equities businesses as a package, pointing to concerns about the profitability of some of the operations. The City is more upbeat, however, about prospects for the bank's Australasian businesses.

Lea Peterson





**JEREMY  
WARNER**  
ON WHY  
THE TAKEOVER  
PANEL MAY  
FIND IT  
DIFFICULT TO  
SURVIVE THE  
GUINNESS  
REPORT

# Guinness assigns Panel to the dustbin of history

Everybody else seems to have emerged from the wreckage of the Guinness affair largely unscathed, so why not the poor old Takeover Panel too? The Panel doesn't get it in the neck quite as badly as Ernest Saunders in the Government's long awaited report on the affair published this week, but the inspectors do reserve some of their fiercest strictures for this remaining monument to the principles of self regulation in the City.

The Panel is already under attack from Brussels, which wants to harmonise takeover regulation throughout Europe on a statutory basis. Could it be that the Guinness report will prove the final nail in the Panel's coffin? The timing could hardly be worse. The Council of Ministers is due to review the Commission's proposed directive next Monday. The inspectors' findings don't exactly bolster the Panel's case for preserving Britain's unique system of non statutory takeover regulation.

In some respects the inspectors' conclusions about the Panel are unfair. No system of regulation, statutory or not, can ever be foolproof against those prepared to take the risk of breaking the rules and then lie about it. If there were such a system, we would live in a perfect world in which there would be no crime or immoral practices.

Even the Guinness inspectors, armed with the most intrusive and daunting

powers available in the jurisdiction, were confronted by non cooperation and lies on a massive scale, to the extent that eleven years after the event, they are forced to admit to not being able to get to the bottom of some matters.

All the same, the underlying premise behind the inspectors' criticism is a reasonable one - it is that all financial scandals are to a greater or lesser extent about a failure in regulation. If the responsible regulator is unable to prevent a scandal as momentous as the Guinness affair, then it is plainly culpable to some degree.

There were obvious signs in the years that preceded the Guinness affair of cavalier and questionable practice on a growing scale in the City. Before the fall, Roger Seelig, Guinness's merchant bank adviser, boasted in an interview that he didn't play by the rules, he made them.

His corporate finance colleague at Morgan Grenfell, George Magan, talked of using every available inch of the playing field in serving the perceived interests of clients. Even an organisation as apparently asleep at the wheel as the Panel could not have helped but notice the arrogance of these remarks and be warned by them that things were seriously out of control. The Panel should have done something, but it didn't.

Strangely, however, this is not the

main thrust of the criticism levelled at the Panel. Rather the inspectors concentrate on some specific failings in the Takeover Code and the manner in which the Panel dealt with the Distillers bid and its aftermath.

For instance, the inspectors observe that the absence of a specific ban on the use of indemnified purchases of shares made it at least possible to claim that this practice was not disallowed by the Code. The inspectors also criticise the way in which the Panel ordered Guinness to pay compensation to Distillers shareholders of £85m in the aftermath of the affair as "based on an unreal premise".

Further, the £85m together with the £54m Guinness paid to Argyle, the rival bidder, in settlement of litigation, would have been regarded by Mr Saunders and others as a reasonable additional expense to secure the prize of Distillers. In other words, the Panel allowed Guinness to get away with it. Despite having broken virtually every rule in the book, the retribution was tiny compared with the size of the reward.

"Once consummated, a takeover cannot realistically be reversed and the present case illustrates the difficulty of providing ex post facto justice for either a losing contestant or accepting shareholders", the inspectors remark in a statement of the blindingly obvious.

The report moves closer to the heart of the matter when it observes that the Panel's powers of investigation depended on a shared ethic of truthfulness which the inspectors found during the course of their investigation belonged at best to a bygone age. "In the face of a party prepared not only to break the rules in secret but then lie in response to the investigator's questions, the Panel executive was confronted by a task which its founders never contemplated."

Here again, however, the inspectors largely miss the point. The Takeover Panel is in fact as diligent and thorough a regulator as it is possible to find. Anyone who has dug into the archives, as I have, to discover how the Panel dealt on an hourly basis with the allegation and counter allegation that went on during the course of the Distillers takeover battle, cannot help but be impressed by the professionalism and thoroughness of its approach.

Unfortunately, this is not enough. An effective regulator also needs to hold a presumption of guilt, and its approach to the task in hand must be that of the crusader. Most important of all, it needs to be the outsider peering in. The Panel makes a valiant attempt at being these things, but because it is an organisation set up by takeover practitioners essen-

tially for the benefit of takeover practitioners, it cannot ever truly provide this function.

Like all forms of self regulation, the Panel's main purpose is to adjudicate between members of the club, not that of providing a wider public interest sanction. Its natural inclination is to trust its members and it is bound to hold a strong presumption of innocence. This is what seems to have happened in the Guinness affair. Since then the Panel has considerably tightened up its procedures and it may well be that the awful nemesis of the Guinness affair is sufficient deterrent in itself to the City's wilder flights of excess.

Don't count on it, though. As we approach the top of the cycle once more, the instances of questionable practice, both in takeover activity and elsewhere in the City, are again multiplying. When there's a fast buck to be made, there are always those prepared to bend the rules if they think they can get away with it. The uncomfortable truth is that the Panel's old fashioned combination of poacher and gamekeeper roles continues to make this endeavour that much easier. The lessons of the Guinness scandal are clear; takeover regulation, like other forms of City regulation, should be put on a full statutory footing.

## Electricians reject 30% pay increase

The call for wage restraint by the Chancellor of the Exchequer seems to be falling on deaf ears. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, discovers that electricians have turned down a massive pay rise.

Graphic evidence of growing inflationary pressure emerged yesterday with news that electricians in the construction industry have rejected a 30 per cent pay increase over three years. Nearly 24,000 electricians voted by three to two against the package despite advice to accept from the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union (AEEU).

Union officials have been sent back to the negotiating table in an attempt to secure a one-year agreement for a 7.5 per cent rise, more than double the inflation rate.

The vote against what will be seen by other employees as an extremely generous offer comes after a plea for wage restraint from the Chancellor in his Green Budget on Tuesday. Gordon Brown urged both sides of industry to bear in mind that today's pay rises could mean tomorrow's job losses.

However, electricians believe they did relatively badly throughout the recession in the construction industry and are seeking to take advantage of increasing skill shortages.

Paul Corby, a national officer of the AEEU, said electricians were angry over an attempt by the Electrical Contractors' Association to create a new grade of semi-skilled electrician who they believe will take away a substantial part of their work.

Mr Corby said a one-year deal granting electricians in the engineering sector a 6 per cent rise "without strings" had set a precedent. The deal on offer to his members would give them around 5.4 per cent over the first 12 months and include unacceptable conditions.

According to AEEU activists, the offer would have given them members 7 per cent in the second year and 6 per cent in the final part of the agreement. It is understood that it is highly unusual for electricians in the industry to reject a deal recommended by their

leadership. There is growing evidence that some union members are dissatisfied with the AEEU and that they are seeking a more militant line on pay.

Mr Corby said his members were seeking a deal which would give them pay of around £10 an hour on prestigious sites such as the Millennium Dome, the Jubilee Line and the Royal Opera House.

A spokesman for the employers pointed out that negotiators on both sides had agreed the package before it was put out to ballot. The employers, however, are not taking any attention to the union's walk.

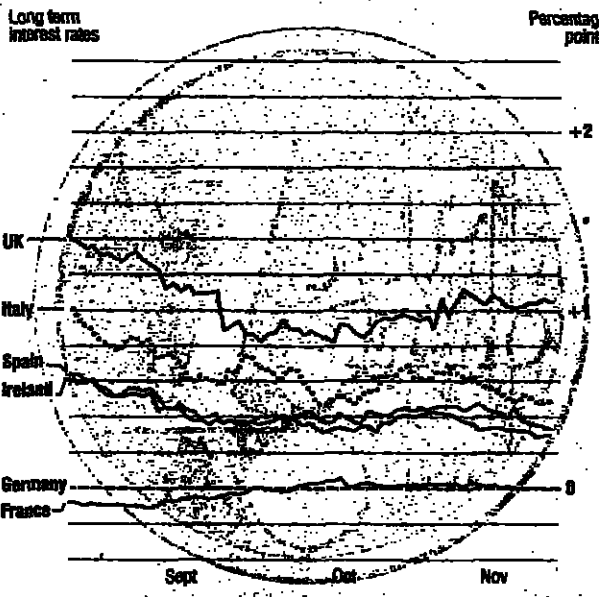
Meanwhile research group Incomes Data Services reports that some 75 per cent of firms are facing difficulties in filling vacancies and there is little sign that recruitment will become easier in the new year.

Skill shortages are having an impact on pay, especially in the construction and information technology sectors.

"It means that some employers are resorting to exceptional measures to recruit staff and hold on to them. We're now seeing bonuses both to attract people and to persuade them to stay," the report said.

### Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

The closer other countries get to the dashed baseline (Germany) the more likely they are to join EMU.



TOWARDS EMU: The closer other countries get to the dashed baseline (Germany) the more likely they are to join EMU. The graph shows interest rates for various countries (UK, Italy, Spain, Ireland, Germany, France) from September to November. The graph shows Germany's rate as a dashed baseline, with other countries' rates fluctuating above and below it.

AWAY FROM EMU: However, if they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the line will move away from the base.

### When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The Independent asked analysts from: Nikko Europe, Palau Webster, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Salomon Brothers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capel, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time:	81%	(83% last week)
Probability EMU is delayed:	16%	(15% last week)
Probability EMU never happens:	4%	(2% last week)

## France the only threat to timetable

The financial crisis in the Far East continues to monopolise the attention of the punters and shift the spotlight away from Europe and EMU. European stock markets have suffered heavy falls but the effect on the real economies of Western European countries should not be so serious.

Nikko Europe's Julian Jessop notes that the German stock market is down 20 per cent but it is still 40 per cent higher than at the start of the year. German banks are conservative and have only a limited exposure to the crisis economies of Asia, including Japan, which only 8 per cent of German exports.

The risk of a rise in German interest rates has receded since the Bundesbank dropped hints that convergence could be achieved by Italy and Spain cutting interest rates rather than Germany raising its rates.

Meanwhile strong economic growth in Europe has reduced the risks of candidate countries failing the public sector borrowing test, and the only real threat to EMU proceeding on time now looks to be a sudden collapse in the French economy.

— Clifford German

## NatWest Markets sell-off announcement 'on Tuesday'

National Westminster Bank will announce early next week that it is selling off parts of NatWest Markets, its all-UK investment banking arm, to Bankers Trust, a US investment bank, and to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell (DMG), a subsidiary of Frankfurt based Deutsche Bank. One source said: "It [the announcement of the sale] should be early next week, probably Tuesday if everything goes swimmingly". DMG is poised to buy NatWest's equity derivatives business for around £100m. The parties are understood to be wrangling over exactly how many of NatWest's overseas equity derivatives staff will transfer to DMG. Bankers Trust is set to purchase most of NatWest's larger global equities business, which has been valued at around £300m by the City.

## Floor space for Dresdner

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson (DKB), the investment banking arm of Frankfurt-based Dresdner Bank, is to build a new trading floor and to increase its London office space by more than 30 per cent. Dresdner Bank is spending £40m on refurbishing Ebbsgate House, previously occupied by BZW, the investment banking arm of Barclays Bank. A new 25,000 sq ft trading area is just part of the planned refurbishment. Around 800 employees in DKB's global markets and global financial divisions will move to the new offices in the second half of next year. DKB's existing Fenchurch Street offices will house the bank's global equities and corporate finance divisions.

## Exchange hit by Talisman

The closure of Talisman, the London Stock Exchange's settlement system, has knocked down the Exchange's income by around one-third. The Exchange earned just £70m in the six months to September, compared to £105m during the same period last year, following the decision last April to transfer responsibility for settlements to the independently-owned Crest. But a substantial cut in costs, which fell by almost £20m to £46m, helped ensure that profits remained healthy. After tax and interest, a surplus of £18m was transferred to reserves, as compared with £10m this time last year. The Exchange said: "Our immediate tasks are to consolidate the operation of the order book, to continue to develop other new products on which we are currently working and to prepare for EMU and the Year 2000". The order book, which cost the Exchange £41.5m in development last year, was finally launched last month.

## P&O in China joint venture

P&O is merging its bulk shipping operations in a joint venture with the Shougang Group of China. Lord Sterling, P&O chairman, announced the 50-50 deal in Beijing yesterday to create one of the world's largest modern dry cargo fleets. The agreement is the latest by P&O in a drive to boost shareholder returns. It's cross-Channel ferry business was recently given the go-ahead to merger with Stena, while P&O's container operations have been merged with Nedlloyd of the Netherlands. P&O Bulk Shipping operates 18 vessels transporting iron ore and coke. It made a small profit last year on sales of £130m.

## Swedish bourses merge

The Stockholm Stock Exchange is to merge with OM Group, the Swedish derivatives exchange. The parties said the purpose of the deal was "to strengthen Stockholm - and thus the entire Nordic region - as a market place in the face of ever increasing competition from overseas bourses and financial markets". The OM Group will offer 11 OM shares for every three shares in the Swedish Stock Exchange. The merger, which was widely expected, should result in significant cost savings, according to the two exchanges. Per Larsson, OM's managing director, hinted that the new group could up its stake in the Helsinki Stock Exchange.

## Shell outlines India plans

Shell has outlined plans for a big partnership in the oil business in India during meetings between the Indian Prime Minister, Inder Kumar Gujral and Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Shell Transport and Trading. The Anglo-Dutch oil giant said it had teamed up with another oil group, Saudi Aramco, to pursue projects in new markets and had identified India as their first initiative.

## Sterling at three-month high

The pound climbed to its highest for three months following comments by the Governor of the Bank of England suggesting that rates might have to rise again. Eddie George said the economic slowdown was months away, and noted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer also expected the cost of borrowing to increase again. The Bank put rates up by a quarter point to 7.25 per cent this month. They are not expected to move again after next week's Monetary Policy Committee meeting, but in the new year. The pound almost touched DM2.97 yesterday, up from a close of just over DM2.95 on Thursday.

## Potato disaster increases losses at Park Foods

It has been a bad week for Peter Johnson, millionaire chairman of Everton Football Club. Everton are firmly rooted to the bottom of the Premier League.

Things have got so bad that Mr Johnson will need a police escort to the home game with Tottenham today.

He is also chairman and the major shareholder of Park Foods, the Merseyside marketing group best known for its Christmas hampers, which yesterday announced that its latest venture had gone disastrously wrong.

DJ Spuddles, Park Food's flavoured potato snack, launched last year, has proved to be an embarrassing flop. The product was targeted at the big food retailers but no contracts were signed before production began.

It has also got on the wrong side of the health lobby, which classifies it as a chip rather than a baked potato.

Spuddles has cost £11.7m to date but total sales were a desisory £37,500 in the six months to the end of September.

Park Foods traditionally loses money in the first half of the year but this year losses grew by 19 per cent to £6.2m.

A new version of Spuddles will be launched shortly which can be baked, not fried, but the future of the venture hangs in the balance.

Mr Johnson owns 67 per cent of the group.

— Clifford German

## Public 'clueless' about self-assessment tax system

More than 300,000 people who have returned their self-assessment tax forms have had them sent back because of serious mistakes, according to Inland Revenue figures released yesterday.

The report came as accountants warned that the public remained largely clueless on the self-assessment system of tax, with seven out of 10 people failing to realise they faced a £100 fine if they missed the 31 January deadline.

A survey of self-employed taxpayers, conducted by London-based chartered account-

ants Levy Gee, suggested more than half of the 3 million who were still to complete their self-assessment had not yet bothered to look at their forms.

Paul Belsman, of Levy Gee's tax division, Jaxpro, said: "Ignorance and confusion on such a widespread scale, and so close to deadlines, is a clear indication that the self-assessment message is failing to get through."

"This is bad news for taxpayers. They are more likely to be dealing with Hannibal Hector than cuddly Hector the Tax Inspector, star of the Govern-

ment's ad campaign, when the Inland Revenue eventually catches up with them."

The 300,000 forms that have been returned by the Inland Revenue represent just 6 per cent of the estimated 5 million forms which were successfully completed for the initial deadline of 31 September this year.

The Revenue had expected 10 per cent to be returned to senders.

However a further 3 million self-employed taxpayers are still to return their forms, with no guarantee that the Revenue will have their assessment ready

before 31 January, when the first payment falls due for the tax year 1996/97.

A Revenue spokesman said one-quarter of forms contained cosmetic mistakes but the level of serious mistakes, such as not signing the form or failing to fill in essential pages, was encouraging. "We are smiling, not frowning, at the numbers so far," the spokesman said. "A lot of the 3 million people will be represented by accountants. We always knew they would file late."

Tax advisers are asking for the deadline to be extended by one month in the first year of self-assessment, fearing that too many of the self-employed are delaying filing in their forms until after Christmas.

Gerry Hart, a former president of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, who now heads up Tax Team, the self-assessment consultants, said: "This is a tremendous shift in responsibility from the state to the taxpayer. The problem is that people are already saying, 'Forget it, it can't be done until after Christmas'. By filing late, you'll be paying interest on your tax as well as paying a fine."

— Andrew Verity

## Labour looks at coal options

The Government is considering proposals to prevent the closure of much of Britain's coal industry in moves which will raise hopes that some form of state support will materialise to keep deep mines open.

The measures under review include some of the recommendations made by the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee after the 1992 coal crisis, when the Conservative government stunned the industry with plans to shut 31 pits with the loss of 30,000 jobs.

Richard Caborn, minister for the regions, regeneration and planning, who chaired the DTI select committee five years ago, is analysing a range of measures to help the industry. His role reflects growing concern within Government at potential damage to its reputation if RJB Mining, which owns most deep

mines, earmarks up to half of the remaining 17 pits for closure.

Government sources played down speculation yesterday that Mr Caborn was being brought in as a fixer to salvage Labour's energy policy after concern at the mounting criticism levelled at the DTI. Mr Caborn is to publish proposals to curb open-cast mining, fulfilling one of Labour's manifesto commitments, but it is understood to be extending his probe into the future of coal after the next wave of contracts with power generators expire in four years' time.

Mr Caborn was said to be "dusting off" the recommendations in the select committee report, which were designed to create a long-term market for coal. One proposal was to subsidise the state-owned British Coal to help it compete with cheaper imports. Another pro-

posal was to encourage regional electricity companies to buy more coal-fired power and to cut their purchases of gas-fired energy.

The DTI has rejected a request for subsidies from RJB, insisting that it would not be appropriate to give direct aid to a private quoted company. However Mr Caborn's involvement will increase speculation that some other form of support could be under discussion. Sources emphasised that coal was no longer a problem confined to the DTI and was being co-ordinated at cabinet level.

This week the prospects for the industry worsened after RJB agreed a supply deal with National Power which would reduce the amount of coal the generator buys by more than half.

— Chris Godsmark

## Richemont launches £1bn bid to buy remainder of Vendôme

Richemont, the Swiss-based conglomerate owned by South Africa's wealthy Rupert family, has launched a £1bn cash bid to buy out the minority shareholders in Vendôme, which owns some of the world's most glamorous luxury brands, including Dunhill, Cartier, Mont Blanc and Chloé, Stella McCartney's Paris fashion house.

Richemont, which already owns 70 per cent of Vendôme, is offering 495p a share for the remaining 30 per cent, valuing Vendôme, quoted in London and Luxembourg, at £3.45bn.

The price is a 26 per cent premium to the shares' pre-bid value. Vendôme's shares closed 79p higher yesterday at 472.5p.

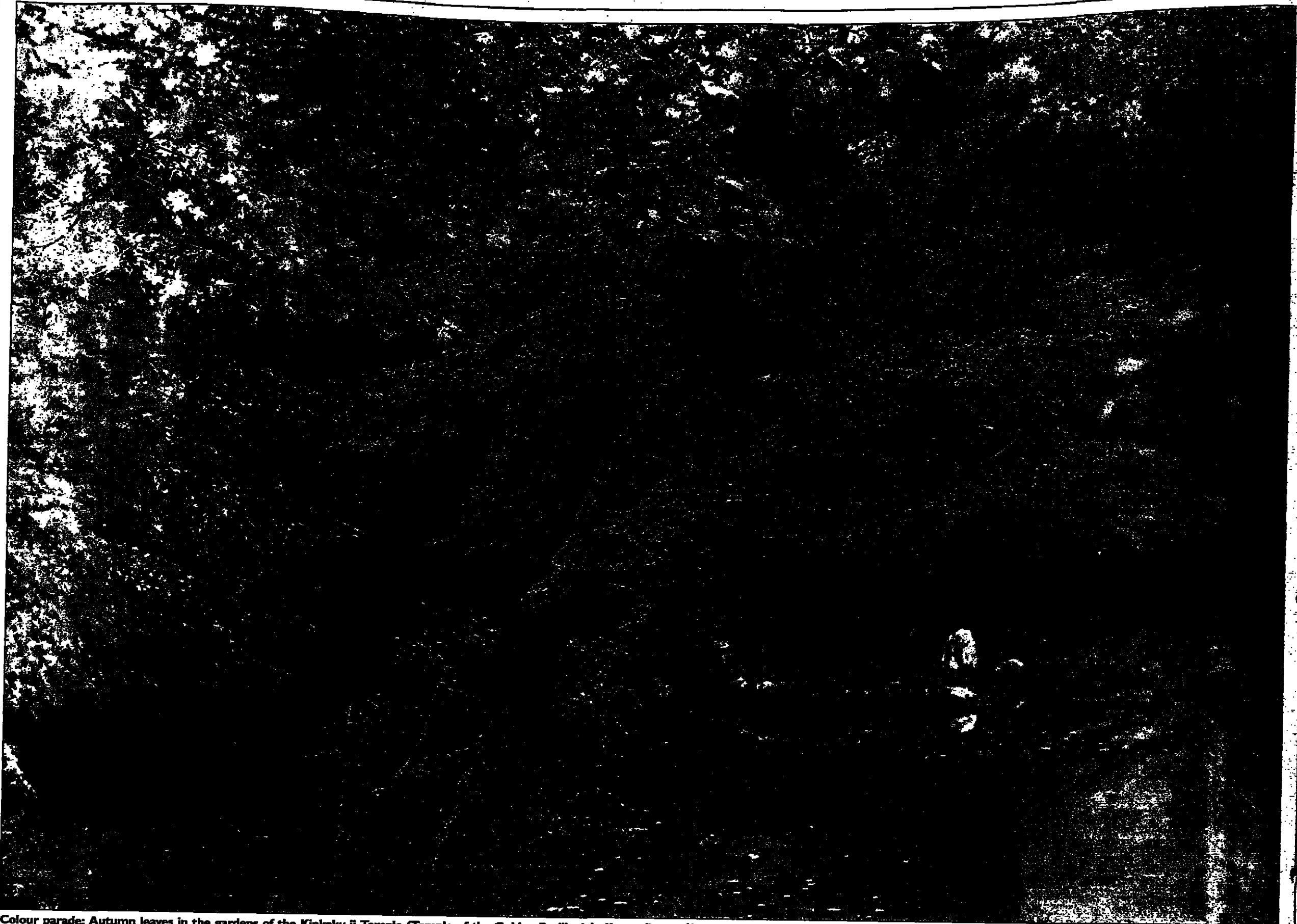
Though Johann Rupert, chief executive of Richemont, is hoping for a recommendation

from Vendôme's board, he said that the company may decide not to proceed with the offer if the world's financial markets collapsed further and threatened Vendôme's markets.

However, speaking at the group's interim results, Joseph Kanoui, Vendôme's chairman, said the financial turmoil had not affected the spending habits of its wealthy customers.

Mr Rupert expects the deal to go ahead smoothly. He said: "This is a generous premium for the minority shareholders. We only approached the board yesterday. We wanted to give them an opportunity to announce their half-yearly results without being prejudiced by a deal. That strategy cost us 60p in one day."

— Sameera Ahmed



Colour parade: Autumn leaves in the gardens of the Kinkaku-ji Temple (Temple of the Golden Pavilion) in Kyoto, Japan, where ministers from 160 countries will be assembling over the weekend for the United Nations Climate Summit which opens on Monday. This photograph, by David Swanborough, was taken with an 85mm lens, 250th of a second at f4, on Fuji 800 Asa film. To order a print of this photograph, telephone 0171-293 2534.

**SIEMENS**

**A cardigan, how lovely, no really, it's just what I wanted and paisley as well, how...unique.**



This Christmas, get to Santa before he gets to you. Ask for the new Siemens S10, which has just been voted the Best Business Mobile in the World by Connect magazine, and which comes with 10 hours talktime, the world's first colour display and a video memo function. Better Technology from Siemens.

TOMORROW IN THE SEVEN-SECTION

## INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY



### SEX INC.

**Joan Smith investigates the erotica business**

**PLUS:**

U2 exclusive – Bono talks to the *Sunday Review*

Christmas food and drink special – brilliant recipes and ideas from our team of experts

Decriminalise cannabis – the latest news in the campaign that everyone is talking about





# TIME OFF

## TRAVEL, LEISURE & SPORT

Saturday 29 November 1997



Chad valley: a trou au natron (salt hole) in the Sahara's highest range, the Tibesti mountains

Photograph: Martin Buckley

## The secret heart of the Sahara

Chad is recovering from 30 years of war. The country now seems stable, and desperately needs to develop its economy. It would love to see tourists. Martin Buckley pioneered a trail.

My driver didn't want to stop. Our guide had warned him about *coupeurs de route* – modern-day highwaymen – and he squinted with suspicion at the old man who ran towards us from a palm-frond hut, flapping his arms. Yet he looked harmless enough. I asked the driver to stop. The man told us that his baby grandson was ill, and his daughter had set off with a camel the previous night. But the town was 100 miles away. If we met her on route, could we please give her a lift? We had been driving for a week through a land of mountains, deserts and volcanic craters – with no roads. I kept thinking that in the United States all this would be a national park. In America, freeways slice through the wilderness, carrying you to the

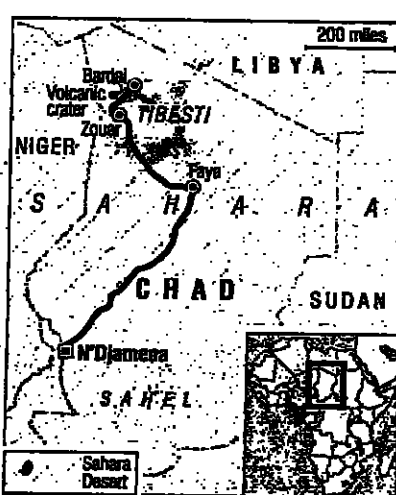
very edge of every natural wonder. But in the Chadlan Sahara you're lucky to find a row of marker posts leading you through the sands, or around a minefield. Astonishing landscapes and rock paintings can be reached only by those with time, money, and one or preferably two Land Rovers.

And nothing puts off tourists like a war. Chad was in a state of war for nearly 30 years. In the Eighties it suffered famine, became known as the world's poorest country, and received a fleeting audience with Bob Geldof. Today Chad seems to be stable, but it urgently needs to develop its tiny economy. And it would love to see a few more tourists.

The capital, N'Djamena, has the colonnaded, sleepy air of a Mediterranean backwater. Its market sprawls around a large mosque, and there's a wealthier, tree-lined avenue with banks, a pâtisserie, and épiceries selling wine and tinned *foie gras*. If you want to hire a vehicle, you can – at a price. But I got lucky. I met Father Bessita, whose parish must be one of the world's remotest – the tiny Christian com-

munities scattered among the Arab tribes of the Chadlan desert. If I would pay for the diesel, he'd take me with him on one of his thrice-yearly jaunts.

We drove into the semi-arid Sahel, and



then across savannah, where we saw – and, rather to my discomfort, hunted – gazelle. We crossed great tracts of desert, with dunes where the wind covered our tracks within minutes of passing. We came upon a broken-down truck whose inhabitants rushed forward with empty water-bottles, and *le père* took their grateful driver aboard. Then we ran out of water ourselves. We were crossing a plain where sheets of perilously soft sand alternated with tooth-loosening broken gravel. The heat was intense. I will never forget reaching the top of an escarpment and looking down on the desert town of Faya. Those thousands of tawny dots were trees, and trees meant water.

Faya has the makings of a popular tourist destination – a striking setting, some pleasant, rather Moorish buildings, a halo of palm fronds; it is close to desert, mountains and lakes. But there are artillery holes in its water-tower and there is no electricity. Chicken claws, goats' hooves and sardine cans litter the sand of the streets. You watch out for the scorpions, whose sting can kill a man. The only hotel offers, at £18, dirty,

airless rooms that would be over-priced at a fiver. But Faya is remote, so everything is overpriced there. Everything except the smuggled corn oil, tinned fish and petrol on sale at the Libyan Market.

Bessita is a big man, 6ft-something, fleshy and charismatic. On Sunday morning, he celebrated Mass in Faya's shady, shoebox-shaped church, his vast form in crisp white linen looming over the leaner congregation. Men played drums made from tinned shell casings, men and women swayed, girl-children danced, God became flesh and wine.

On Monday he headed out to his flocks in the eastern desert. And I went north west, towards Libya, having hired a battered pick-up Jeep and driver in Faya. My driver, Abdul, had never been this way before, and was nervous. I had good maps and a GPS (satellite position-finder), and was also nervous. By chance, we met a man who wanted to travel to the far side of the next stretch of desert, and he became our guide. We drove past orange dunes, and across white sand of utter flatness, driving

under a full moon late into the night without any need for headlights.

It was mid-morning on our second day out of Faya when we met the old man who wasn't a highwayman, and noon when we found his daughter, sitting out the midday heat in a small grove of thorny desert trees. Her mother crouched beside her, and a boy tended the camel. The sick baby's eyes were acid yellow – presumably hepatitis. I put the women and baby into the cab, and climbed on to the back of the pick-up. Dark, sun-baked sandstone rose around us as the jeep climbed the barren foothills of the Tibesti Massif, the tallest mountains in the Sahara. It's a land of stark inhospitality, home to isolated and secretive tribespeople, mostly nomadic herders.

In late afternoon we saw before us a magnificent vision: a blood-red track through black rock leading down to the Zouar Valley, a broad sand plain locked in by rose-coloured sandstone cliffs 200ft high. At the checkpoint outside town, a soldier stared at me. I was quenching my thirst

Continued page 3

INSIDE

CITY BREAKS

Two-day Dublin/3

WORLD FESTIVALS

Go-go or no-go? 6/7

SPORT

THE VOICE OF RACING

Peter O'Sullivan bows out/18

HERO'S RETURN

Bjorn Borg in London/22

# THE ONE

SMOKING CAUSES CANCER

Chief Medical Officers' Warning  
1 mg Tar • 0.1 mg Nicotine



VC. investigates the business



Photograph: Ted Ditchburn

Time and weather have been cruel to much of Britain's Roman past. But at South Shields, there is a wonderful opportunity to look up, not down, at our classical heritage, writes  
*Guy de la Bédovère.*

That parade ground probably belonged to a fort sited around the time of Hadrian's Wall – but the only fort has not been found, because in the

South Shields was later adapted as a storehouse for the Emperor Septimius Severus (AD193-211) who came here early in the third century to fight a war. Severus, so the story goes, was fed up with his sons, Caracalla and Geta, spending their time on the razze in Rome. Fighting in northern Britain would soon toughen them up. As the Caledonians were causing trouble as usual, there was a good excuse for a war.

At South Shields all the usual buildings were

**Walking round South Shields today, you can't fail to be struck by the imposing west gate. It's a replica.**

South Shields is a marvellous place to take children, especially those studying the Romans at school. The local authority could make a better job of signposting it, because all too many people miss out on South Shields when they visit Hadrian's Wall. And if it's a bit on the nippy side, where else can you walk out of a Roman fort and buy fish and chips, guaranteed to warm the cockles of the heart of the coldest Tigris boatman?

**Albani Roman Fort (0191 454 4093)** is open Mon-Sat 10am-4pm, entrance to museum and grounds free, except for the Time Quest gallery: adults £1, children 50p. Access by road is via the A185/A194 from Gateshead. Approaching South Shields up the A194, watch for a roundabout exit to the B1303 (Station Road, becoming River Drive) that skirts round the north of South Shields by the Tyne and turn right down Baring Street. The fort is on your left. Access by Metro (South Shields Station) involves a 15-20-minute walk: head east down King Street and carry on into Ocean Road, take the first left turn after the roundabout (Baring Street) and walk north for half a mile to the museum.

*Guy de la Bédoyère is the presenter of Radio 4's series 'The Romans in Britain', on Saturdays at 4pm.*

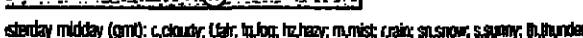


Solutions to Mr Norman's conundrum will be published here before Christmas, providing that they do not include smuggling quantities of in-flight miniatures off the plane for an impromptu transit lounge party.

Even though he had secured a 60 per cent discount, the story didn't quite end there. "While I was waiting for my credit card to be processed, I noticed a door to the back office ajar. Inside, a handwritten sign proclaimed 'Absolutely the lowest rate tonight: \$175'"

Wherever you wander in the US, don't forget your passport; even if your visage is as old and raddled as the one above, you may be asked for a photo ID to prove your age when you buy alcohol or cigarettes. And, increasingly, identification is demanded for any transaction involving a credit card or travellers' cheques. In the Burbank branch of Vons supermarket, though, the check-out clerk was prepared to let me pay with a travellers' cheque but without ID, providing I answered this question correctly: "Is it yours?"

### The British Isles, noon today



Burden	r 46	Gardiff	c 18 50	Inverness	r 46	Oxford	c 9 40
Cleary	c 10 50	Geddie	c 10 50	Ipswich	r 11 52	Plymouth	r 11 52
IF	c 9 40	Cork	r 9 48	Isles of Scilly	r 11 52	Scarborough	r 10 50
Elfast	r 10 50	Dover	d 11 52	Jersey	c 12 54	Shrewsbury	d 8 46
Lirmingham	m 9 48	Dublin	r 10 50	Liverpool	r 9 48	Southampton	r 11 52
Fackpool	c 9 48	Edinburgh	r 9 48	London	c 11 52	Sunderland	c 12 54
Forfar	r 10 50	Exeter	c 9 48	Manchester	r 9 48	Torquay	r 9 48
Highland	r 12 54	Glasgow	c 9 48	Newcastle	r 9 48	Stornoway	r 9 48
Rristol	c 10 50	Guernsey	c 13 55	Nottingham	m 8 46	York	r 9 48

Lighting-up times			
Alders	16.04	to	8.21
Lirmingham	15.59	to	7.54
Edin	16.06	to	7.52
Edgou	15.50	to	8.21
Edgou	15.57	to	7.43
Manchester	15.55	to	8.00
Newcastle	15.45	to	8.06
Nottingham	15.53	to	7.55
Birmingham	15.58	to	7.55
Bristol	16.06	to	7.53
Glasgow	15.50	to	8.28
London	15.56	to	7.44
Manchester	15.55	to	8.02
Newcastle	15.44	to	8.07

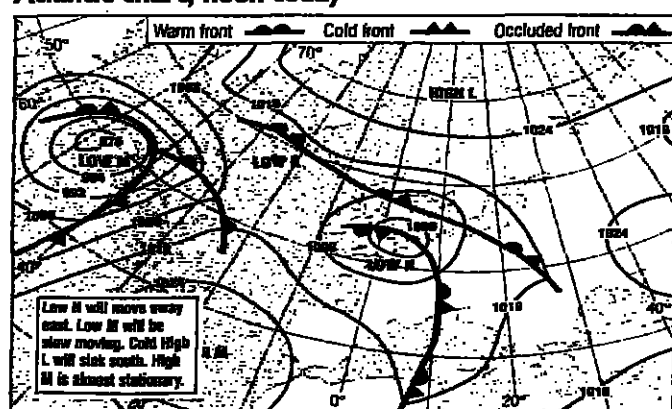
  

### Air quality

**Yesterday's readings**

Wilt.	Good
London	Good
S England	Good
Wales	Good
C England	Good
N England	Good
Scotland	Good
N Ireland	Good

Tomorrow will be a brighter day in most places with some sunshine, but a few showers are still likely - the showers turning to snow over the Scottish mountains. During the first half of next week a cold north-easterly airflow is expected to become established across the UK. Initially any wintry weather should be confined to high ground, but there will be widespread night frosts, and there is a possibility of snow flurries on low ground by mid-week.



Athens	c 18 61	Frankfurt	c 12 54	New York	s 8 46
Auckland	t 28 68	Frankfurt	c 3 37	Nice	r 13 55
B. Aires	s 23 73	Gesara	c 5 43	Nicosia	s 22 72
Bombay	c 26 81	Glasgow	c 6 10	Paris	c 6 10
Buenos Aires	f 15 59	Helsinki	c 3 27	Prague	c 2 36
Buenos Aires	s 21 70	Hong Kong	f 27 81	Reykjavik	r 9 48
Buenos Aires	f 15 59	Hong Kong	m 12 54	Rio de Jan	f 32 90
Buenos Aires	c 1 30	Jakarta	f 18 54	Riyadh	s 23 73
Buenos Aires	f 15 59	Jakarta	c 13 55	Rome	r 19 68
Buenos Aires	f 15 59	K. Lumpur	c 34 93	Santiago	s 23 72
Buenos Aires	f 15 59	London	c 10 54	Sao Paulo	c 23 72
Buenos Aires	c 22 72	Los Angeles	f 16 51	Singapore	f 24 75
Cape Town	c 25 77	Madrid	c 11 52	Tokyo	s 24 75
Casablanca	t 20 68	Manila	c 18 64	Venice	m 13 55
Chattanooga	s 25 77	Malta	c 20 68	Vladivostok	m 4 39
Chattanooga	c 1 34	Melbourne	f 24 75	Warsaw	m 2 23
Curtis	t 23 66	Moscow	s 5 23	Washington	f 18 54
Curtis	t 23 66	Moscow	s 5 23	Wellington	f 18 54
Curtis	t 23 66	Moscow	s 5 23	Winnipeg	f 18 54
Curtis	t 23 66	Moscow	s 5 23	Zurich	c 7 36

July 1998.

AB03 422 East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow  
Road. Kilsyth Roadworks at Balmainlock  
Road until 9th September.

Somerset, M5 222-223 Highdowns to  
Barnstaple. Major roadworks due to  
resurfacing. These may continue if it  
is in place. Until 31st March 1998.

Cheshire, M53 between J9 and J11,  
Ellesmere Port and Chester. Centralize  
with two lanes each way and the hard  
shoulder in use for roadworks. Until  
14th December.

West Yorkshire, M62 1229-1230. Decursory  
to Leeds (M1). A centralize and a 50mph  
speed limit are in place. Until 30th June  
1999

**Get out about with AA Road-**  
**works 1998** due to a first time  
in reduced lanes. See Chapter 2. The  
Association takes charge. 200p per min  
(charge) 40p per min (all other times) and  
VAT

Magnitude scale:

4 3 2 1 0

Alpha

CASSIOPEIA

Epsilon

PERSEUS

Algol

Capella

AURIGA

Aldebaran

Pleiades

The constellation Perseus, containing the celebrated variable star Algol, has risen by nightfall and is virtually overhead by 11pm to midnight. Minima of Algol occur around 11.30pm on Tuesday and 8.20pm on Friday.

Like a couple condemned to waltz till they die for the sin of being too intimate, the two stars of Algol perform an incessant dance circling around each other in gravity's unbreakable embrace. As the duller partner in an unequal match eclipses its more dazzling companion, Algol fades. In four hours it loses well over a magnitude. Maximum eclipse lasts just 20 minutes before the 4-hour recovery commences. The whole performance repeats every two days 20 hours and 53 minutes. More than 100 minima of Algol occur in a year, but only a quarter of them are observable. The week provides two opportunities, both conveniently before midnight: 11:20-11:40pm on Tuesday the 2nd and at 8:10-8:30pm on Friday the 5th. Two stars in nearby Cassiopeia are useful comparators for judging Algol's progress. Alpha Cassiopeiae shines like Algol at its brightest (magnitude 2.2), while Epsilon resembles Algol's darkest moments (magnitude 3-5).

lacqueline Mitton

هكذا من الامم



# 3/CITY BREAK

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
#3



Liquid culture: Guinness and the River Liffey, above, course through the heart of Dublin; below, a door on World Street

Photographs: P. Thurston/Telegraph Colour Library

## 48 hours in the life of Dublin

Each week, *'The Independent'* provides a prescription for a perfect weekend break. This week, Daniel Ford offers a short cut to the soul of Dublin.

### Why go now?

Christmas shopping turns Dublin's streets into a festival - with musicians on nearly every corner to entertain you through the day and into the night. Dublin is always a treat, but the shorter days and longer nights make the numerous pubs cosy with real fires. There is a buzz all over the city - both inside and out.

### Beam down

Air fares between the UK and Dublin are low, even with £10 UK tax (included in all the fares below). The lowest fare on Ryanair (0541 569569) from Birmingham, Bristol, Luton, Manchester, Prestwick or Stansted is £48 return (book by 8 December); from Liverpool and Teesside, £59; from Cardiff £69; from Gatwick £79. Lowest of all is from Birmingham (£39 before 19 December, and 7-29 January). Other airlines with scheduled services include Aer Lingus (0181-899 4747) from numerous UK airports, British Airways from Gatwick (0345 222111) and British Midland (0345 554554) from East Midlands and Heathrow.

By sea, the fastest route is on Stena Line (0990 707070). A weekend return for a car plus five people is £179 for the 100-minute crossing from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire, six miles south-east of Dublin.

### Get your bearings

The best way to cover the six miles south from the airport to the city centre is by Air Link bus. The half-hour trip to the Central Bus Station, or Busaras, costs £2.50.

The Liffey divides Dublin into two distinct areas. The north is where many of the galleries and theatres can be found, while the south is the more social centre, with hotels, pubs, restaurants and shops. Temple Bar is the main area for pubs -

many of which have live music - and restaurants.

Roads south of Temple Bar, Grafton Street and Nassau, offer more eateries and drinking-holes, along with the better shops. Dublin Castle and the magnificent Trinity College are also in this area. North of the river, most points of interest are situated around O'Connell Street.

The main Dublin Tourism Centre (00 353 1 605 7700) is in a converted church on Suffolk Street, near Trinity College.

### Check in

Probably the most charming (and famous) of Dublin's hotels is the Shelbourne Hotel (00 353 1 676 6471), at 27 St Stephen's Green. It is also one of the most expensive, with a weekend rate of £170 per room per night for a standard double including breakfast; the weekday rate is £152. The band U2 has an interest in the top-range Clarence (bookings through 0800 181535). At the other end of the scale, the city centre has plenty of hostels. One of the best is Avalon House (00 353 1 475 0001) in Augier Street. Prices start at £7.50 in a 12-bed dorm; twin rooms cost £12 per person.

Much of the mid-range accommodation is around the Victorian suburb of Ballsbridge, a lively area to the south east of the city. Prices per person are in the £25-£30 range. Northumberland Lodge (00 353 1 660 5270), in Northumberland Road, is very welcoming, and charges £65 for a double room including breakfast.

**Take a ride**  
From Pearse Station, near Trinity College,

whisk yourself away on the excellent local train service - Dart, short for Dublin Area Rapid Transit - to Killiney. This magnificent and beautiful beach suburb is half-an-hour from the city centre and is home to Dublin's rich and famous - particularly those who have made their cash in music. The station is practically on the beach, so take a short walk along the sand looking over Dublin Bay. If the tide is out you can stroll all the way along the beach to Dalkey; alternatively, come off the beach and walk along the Vico Road until you get to the sign for Killiney Hill Park. The walk up and over the hill is well worth it, offering fantastic views across the ocean and south to Wicklow.

You come down into Dalkey, where you can pick up the Dart back into the city. However, you would be doing yourself a great injustice if you did not stop at Finnegans on the Sorrento Road, next to

the Dart station, for a pint of Guinness and the freshest scampi imaginable.

### Take a hike

Stroll through the old cobbled streets of Temple Bar, the beating heart of Dublin's social life; the place is alive with street performers and musicians. A three-minute walk south of Temple Bar down Westmoreland street will bring you to the majestic Trinity College. Entry is free, which is just as well, since a visit here is a must if you want to understand something of Dublin's literary and political history. You will, however, need to pay £3.50 to see the ancient Book of Kells in the spectacular Old Library, open 9.30am to 5.30pm. Various walking tours start at Trinity College; the guides are usually highly visible.

### Lunch on the run

The unequivocal front-runner for a mid-day meal is Beshoff Fish and Chips, 14 Westmoreland Street (and also at 7 Upper O'Connell Street). For £2.99 you get a fabulous piece of morning-fresh cod in a superb, delicate batter, and excellent, crispy chips from potatoes grown on Beshoff's own farm in Tipperary. This is a Dublin institution, and an absolute treat.

### Cultural afternoon

In a city that has nurtured such literary heavyweights as Wilde, Shaw, Yeats, Joyce, Beckett and Swift, you'll want to make a bit of a pilgrimage. Heading north over the Liffey, a walk up the remarkably wide O'Connell Street brings you to Parnell Square. The

Dublin Writers Museum (00 353 1 872 2077) is at No 18 (next door to the Living Writers Museum). Here you get a taste of Irish literary history, from early Christian writings to the works of Brendan Behan (adults £2.90, children £1.20, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 11.30am-6pm).

From here, cross Parnell Square East Road and head into Gardiner Row, where Belvedere College is situated - Joyce was a student here - then turn down into North Great George's Street, where you'll find the James Joyce Centre at No 35 (00 353 1 878 8547) - open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm, Sun 12.30-5pm. The £2.75 entrance fee is worth it just to see inside this magnificent Georgian building, with its detailed stucco work on the walls and ceiling. The centre is full of all manner of Joyce-related information, including the original door of 7 Eccles Road (Leopold Bloom's address in *Ulysses*).

For a less sober slant on the city's history, take the Literary Pub Crawl - this is £6 well spent. Starting at the Duke, on Duke Street, at 7.30pm Thur/Fri/Sat, actors take you around a number of pubs enacting scenes from Irish plays and giving anecdotes regarding the drinking habits of Dublin's writers: "I am a drinker with a writing problem," quipped Brendan Behan.

### An aperitif

If you can get in, the Horseshoe Bar at the Shelbourne Hotel is the place for a pre-dinner tipple. Alternatively, the locals will make you feel very much at home at Neary's, on Chatham Street. Enter beneath outstretched Art Deco arms holding flaming candles, and sneak inside the impressive gas-lit interior for a pint of Guinness.

### Demure dinner

The Coopers Café (00 353 1 660 1525) at the Sweetestakes Centre, Ballsbridge, is a treat. It'll set you back about £30 per person, but it is a fabulous modern restaurant, and suggests a taste of more good things to come to Dublin. Those on a tighter budget should head for the clean sur-

roundings of Milano (00 353 1 670 3384) on Essex Street, Temple Bar, where you can enjoy a fantastic pizza or pasta dish for about £6.

### Sunday morning: go to church

There is certainly no shortage of options in Dublin. For real tradition, try St Mary's Pro-Cathedral on Mary Street. You certainly won't be on your own; this huge cathedral is full of worshippers at 11am. Delivered entirely in Latin, this 90-minute service is wonderful, with the famous Palestrina Choir lifting the experience to the sublime.

### Bracing brunch

A five-minute walk down O'Connell Street, over the bridge and back into Temple Bar offers a couple of great brunch opportunities. The foremost of these is the Elephant and Castle (00 353 1 679 3121) where you can while away a couple of hours with a Bloody Mary and a choice from the impressive brunch menu in busy but comfortable surroundings. Book ahead.

Just across the road from here is Fitzers Café (00 353 1 679 0440), which has stark, modern décor with particularly disorienting unisex toilets. The starter menu here offers good, brunch-style fare.

### A walk in the park

Phoenix Park, home of Dublin Zoo, may seem the obvious choice for a Sunday perambulation, but a better option is St Stephen's Green, a short walk down Grafton Street. This is an attractive area with a large pond, rambling hedges and sculptured lawns, and a large number of Victorian bandstands and gazebos dotted about.

### The icing on the cake

Lots of cakes, in fact. No trip to the city is complete without a visit to Bewley's Oriental Café on Grafton Street. This elegant coffee shop is a Dublin institution, serving cakes, buns, coffee and full meals to hungry shoppers. On Sundays, it opens 8am-11pm.



## The secret heart of the Sahara

Continued from page 1  
with a mango brought from Faya, and the soldier looked as though he wanted to hit me. "Don't eat that thing in front of me," he spat, in French. "I haven't seen a mango for four years. I haven't been south or seen my family for four years."

The fate of black African soldiers from the south posted to the north is unenviable. Much of Chad's civil strife has been along the ethnic-linguistic fault line between the black, usually Christian, south, and the Arab-Muslim north, a legacy of the French colonial carve-up. The genial and loose-limbed southerners are at a loss among the dour, self-sufficient Arabs. Mostly soldiers, they can spend many years posted in Tibesti, often unpaid for months on end. "What are we doing here?" I was asked by one desperate man who hadn't been relieved

for 10 years. "Are we prisoners of war, or what?" Deserter is impossible; they'd soon die in the desert, and if they were caught they'd be shot. So they wait, smoking Libyan cigarettes and listening on short-wave radios to football results and reports of African wars.

I reached into the box and handed the soldier a mango. In delight, he almost danced back to his shack to eat it.

Zouar is a cluster of mud-block houses and palm-frond huts on a sand plain. Being responsible for a sick child brought home to me the statistics - that Chad has a severe shortage of doctors, and one of the world's highest infant mortality rates - 20 times Britain's. We found the doctor at his home in the military quarter. He examined the baby and diagnosed hepatitis and a severe lung infection. Would he live? I asked. "Oh yes," he

said, "if we treat him. There's just one problem: medicines. I never have enough drugs. At the moment I haven't even a handful of paracetamol."

And so we spent hours visiting Zouar's unofficial pharmacies. People travel huge distances for medicines, clinging to the tops of trucks that smuggle goods down from the Libyan border. They face dehydration and attacks by bandits, and, understandably, they sell the drugs at exorbitant prices. We found most of what we needed, but one important drug was missing.

The next morning a guide took me through an uncleared Libyan minefield north, towards Bardai, deep in the Tibesti Massif. The roughly-hewn mountain pass scrapes the edge of a gigantic pink volcanic crater whose floor, far below, glistens white with salt. In this mountain desert

there's a little moisture, and you see some wild flowers, and soaring black eagles. I explored for hours, amazed to be alone in a place of such extraordinary beauty.

That night we reached the palm oasis of Bardai. I spent the night at the small French garrison, guest of six hospitable soldiers unused to welcoming European visitors. The captain was well versed in international politics, and it seemed reasonable to wonder what he and his men were doing in this remote spot. Was it their job, I asked, to monitor the Libyans, who are just a few miles north? In the late Eighties much of northern Chad was occupied by Libya, and General Gadhafi's forces were thrown out only with French help. "No," he said stiffly, "Our sole task is to provide military assistance to the Chadian army." Tell it to the marines.

When I left Bardai the French adjutant, a Schwarzenegger-muscled Polynesian, presented me with a large box of drugs for the doctor at Zouar, including the very one needed by the baby boy. It was extraordinarily generous, and brought a lump to my throat. And so it was that my return journey to Zouar was a triumph over adversity. On the way I stopped to look at prehistoric cave paintings like those in *The English Patient* - cattle, elephants and giraffe daubed on the rock, recalling that 5,000 years ago these barren mountains were covered with lakes and trees. There are still subterranean aquifers, and one day the hills may be green again. One day, too, if Chad stays free of war, tourists will begin to discover this astonishing landscape. Until then, Tibesti will remain the barren and secret heart of the Sahara.

### THE CHALLENGE OF CHAD

The Africa Travel Group (0171-387 1211) offers flights on Air France from various UK airports via Paris to the capital of Chad for £910 including tax. In N'Djamena you can hire reliable four-wheel drive vehicles, only with driver - check his mechanical expertise, and that enough spares are carried. Two-vehicle expeditions are safest.

There is no public transport, but you can rent a seat inside (or, for the suicidally hardy) on top of, a lorry or Toyota pick-up. Allow at least two months for the round trip. Trucks take up to 10 days to reach Faya, where you change vehicles for the journey to Zouar, and change again for Bardai. Take your own water and food; breakdowns are frequent, and there is a recognised risk of armed hold-ups (much less if you travel in your own vehicle).

**WORLD COVER**  
ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE  
CALL US ON 0800 365 121



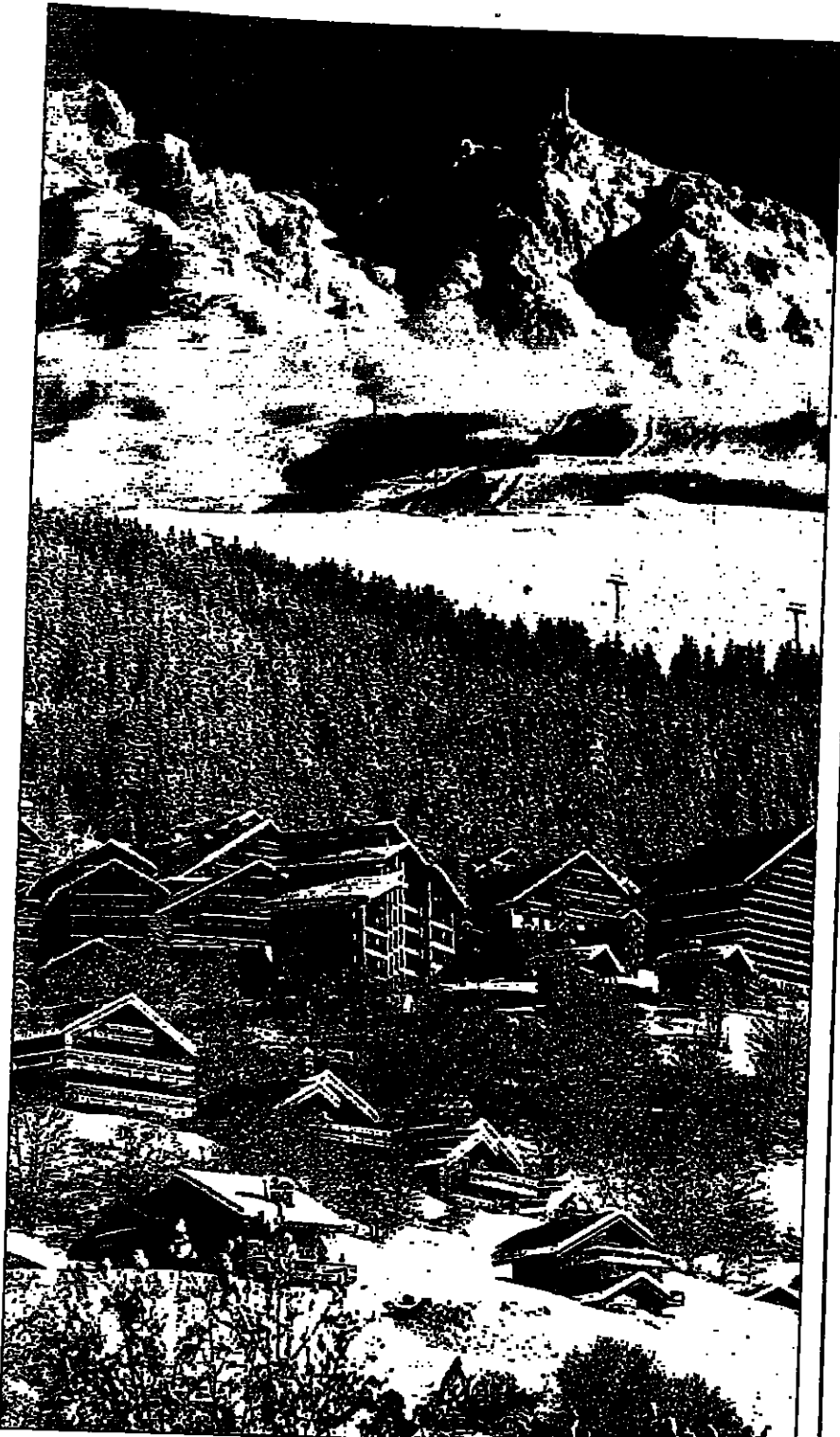




# 5/SKIING

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
# 5

## From Finland to France, it's uphill all the way



There's no business like snow business: chalets fitter Alpine slopes at Méribel

### WHY WE GO WHERE

Caroline Stuart-Taylor, managing director of the Ski Club of Great Britain, explains why skiers are choosing the top five destinations.

1. **France** (24.9 per cent of the market for 1997/98 ski holiday bookings): "It's doing well primarily because of the exchange rate: we're getting about 16 per cent more francs to the pound than this time last year. But France has also been working hard to promote itself, with things such as its special 'Kids ski free' offers in January."
2. **Italy** (20.6 per cent): "People swooped on Italy a couple of years ago because it was so cheap – and having been there, many of them obviously found they like it. It isn't such a bargain now, but people still think it is."
3. **Austria** (15.4 per cent): "It has always been popular, particularly with beginners, because of the traditional chocolate-box ambience of its mountain villages; but in recent years it has been very expensive. Now the schilling has dropped sharply against the pound, so it has become cheaper."
4. **Andorra** (10 per cent): "The snow was good in Andorra last year, and it has always been a keenly priced destination. Because of the British ski school at Soldeu, it is a good place for beginners, which has also increased its popularity."
5. **Canada** (9.6 per cent): "It has done well over the last few years, and gained a reputation for good skiing; the advent of charter flights has made it more accessible."

"The market-share figures are for bookings made up to the end of October"



Val d'Isère, one of France's biggest winter drawcards Photograph: Dave Roman

Which is this year's hot spot (so to speak) for skiing? Armed with the Holiday Booking Survey, Stephen Wood figures out how the different countries are doing in the snakes-and-ladders business of the slopes.

This time last year, there was no doubt which was the most popular skiing destination. It was Bulgaria, where sales of skiing holidays were up 89 per cent over the previous season. In the early part of the 1996/7 booking season, up to the beginning of October, its growth was ahead of Canada's (76 per cent) and Andorra's (71 per cent). The traditional market leaders were trailing so far behind that they weren't even in Bulgaria's wake: France was down 12 per cent, year-on-year, and Austria's sales had dropped by a whopping 27 per cent.

True, Bulgaria was actually outperformed by Finland. Starting from a low base – a total of 12 skiing holidays in that country had been sold up to October 1995 – Finland's sales to the beginning of October 1996 had shot up to 545, an increase of 4,442 per cent. But it was Bulgaria, with sales of 7,419 holidays, which seemed set to be the star of the season.

It didn't actually turn out that way. In the early months of this year, poor snow (Bulgaria was the only major destination to suffer in that respect) and political unrest in Sofia – which led to skiing charters being diverted to Plovdiv – conspired to reduce bookings; and at the end of the season, Bulgaria's year-on-year increase had slipped to 44 per cent – still impressive, but some way behind Canada and Andorra, which had maintained their growth rate (76 and 72 per cent respectively) throughout the season. And while Bulgaria was slipping, France had recovered sufficiently to end the 1996/7 season 4 per cent up on the previous year.

This year it's a different story. Bulgaria is still doing well: its sales to October this year are up a further 25 per cent on that good 1996/7 result. But so far, this season's star performer is unquestionably France, up 78 per cent.

All these figures come from Terry McCarthy, director of the Holiday Booking Survey (HBS), which is produced by the market research company, ACNielsen. Every month the company surveys 300 high-street travel agents, and monitors the bookings taken on the premises: from this sample it then extrapolates figures for the whole market. Although the HBS does not include direct-sell telephone or electron-

ic bookings, it still reckons to cover 83 per cent of the package-holiday market. And up to the beginning of last month (the most recent period for which complete figures are available), the HBS shows skiing bookings to be a remarkable 41 per cent up on last year and doing twice as well as the winter holiday market as a whole.

As McCarthy points out, all the major ski companies produced their brochures earlier than usual for this 1997/8 season, a continuing trend which has led to some bookings – not many – having been made this month for 1998/9. Last year's final reckoning showed that 36 per cent of the season's bookings had been made by the beginning of October; this year, McCarthy suspects that the figure could be

40 per cent or more. Which means, for one thing, that market shares are less likely to change dramatically from October onwards – unlike last season when, as well as Bulgaria's decline, the USA went from being 33 per cent up at this point to finishing the season 13 per cent down.

So who's doing well so far this year apart from France? Almost everyone: all the major resorts are benefiting from the overall growth in the market. Down amongst the skiing minnows, Finland is surging ahead, with a further 309 per cent increase this year; but Andorra – small in size, not in skiing – has shown the best performance among the big fish, with a 46 per cent increase on last season's impressive figures. The USA has bounced back, too, with a 36 per cent increase year-on-year – despite the fact that many ski-trade insiders have been predicting big problems in the US market because capacity on charter flights to Denver has expanded dramatically, but the pound has become relatively less valuable against the dollar than against most European currencies.

Austria is doing very well (42 per cent up), as is Switzerland (39 per cent); only Italy is falling behind the market, after a couple of years of dramatic growth, with an increase of only 19 per cent so far this

season. The only real disaster area is Germany. By the beginning of October last year, 240 skiing holidays had been sold there. The figure for this year? There isn't one.

For France this promises to be a great season. Last year, it made a very slow start: the HBS figures show that up to October 1996, only 29 per cent of its bookings for the whole season had been made. By comparison, Italy had done 44 per cent of its business, and the USA 52 per cent. Probably because of its proximity to Britain and the easy access via ferries and the Channel Tunnel, France continued to sell well through January and February, and was only outperformed (marginally) by a late run from Switzerland in March and April. This year, the new direct Eurostar service from Waterloo to the French Alps will make it even more accessible. If the snow is good, the French slopes will be full this season.

So holidays in France will have to be booked soon. But if you are thinking of going to the Czech Republic or Slovakia, you can relax for a couple of months. Statistics can become addictive; you keep finding interesting stuff – I found, for example, that 129 skiing holidays in the former Czechoslovakia were sold last year. And every single one was booked in the January/February period. Why? I have no idea.

Margaret Breen

### GREEN CHANNEL

The ideas behind *The Big Issue* – the magazine sold by the homeless – have travelled far. In The Gambia, a magazine called *Concern* is being sold to tourists by beach boys (known as bumsters). It gives information about what local people would like tourists to do, so that our holidays are of some benefit to the locals. Adama Bah, a Gambian, set up *Concern* last year after visiting London and talking to a *Big Issue* seller. He has come back to London to attend Reuters' International Network for Street Papers conference this week-end and pick up some tips.

The main aim of publishing the magazine is "as a tool for advocating a fairer and more equitable form of tourism," says Adama. "Gambian people are being crippled by the growth of foreign-owned and all-inclusive tourism. It is crazy – we hardly benefit from tourism at all. Most of the money goes back out of the country. Even our farmers hardly benefit, because so much of the food for tourists is imported."

*Concern* encourages tourists to step outside their resorts and spend more in the local shops and restaurants. It also explains local worries about tourism, and gives local cultural and tourist information. Importantly, the bumsters are provided with employment, many of whom otherwise become "escorts" for foreign women or live a hand-to-mouth existence.

Adama is working with other Gambians to publish an "alternative guidebook" for tourists interested in staying in small-scale, local accommodation and learning about cultural sites off the beaten track. They are also organising community awareness programmes for villages that are directly affected by tourism. In a country where families are often supported on a single wage of £1 a day from hotel work, tourism to The Gambia must change for the better, he says.

"There is nothing idealist about this – it's the only way out for us. We have to make sure tourism is sustainable and viable for the future. For us, it's pretty much a life or death struggle."

Sue Wheat

### RED CHANNEL

Sydney is a city under siege. Not by any foreign invader, but by battalions of builders. So if crane-spotting gets you going, or you have a fetish for foundations, then you're in for a treat. But otherwise you may be in for a disappointment, with a number of city buildings either shrouded in scaffolding or being remodelled.

It is all part of the huge effort to get Sydney ready for the 27th Olympic Games, which start in September 2000. At the moment the city receives 2.5 million international visitors a year. That is expected to leap to 3.6 million around the time of the Olympics, and up to 5.1 million by 2005. And while an estimated A\$2m (about £850,000) per day is being spent on the Olympic site itself at Homebush Park, elsewhere nearly A\$6bn (about £2.5bn) will be spent over the next three years on commercial projects such as hotels and apartments to cope with the influx. Watch out, too, for the great holes of Sydney: 22 of these appeared around the city in the recession of the early Nineties. Developers, having knocked down the existing buildings, couldn't afford to build new ones – and so they were simply left. Incentives are being offered to their owners to build on them, but if these are not taken up they'll be forced to cap the holes and landscape them.

Sydney is still a breathtakingly beautiful place, but until the work is finished it isn't displaying its best side. If you are going before then, when you pack your sun hat, it may be worth slipping a hard one on, too.

Margaret Breen

### SKI TIP

To change the rhythm and intensity of your turning, ski in time with your breathing. Short turns require more air, so breathe more rapidly; for longer turns, inhale and exhale smoothly.

Chris Exall

## THE INDEPENDENT

### EXOTIC KENYA & SAFARI ADVENTURE

Look no further for your perfect holiday retreat! This superb offer, saving up to £126 per person on the brochure price, will take you away to one of the most idyllic and romantic settings on the Kenyan coast yet with the facilities for an active holiday. The "all inclusive" Club Hotel Watamu Beach, situated south of Watamu and 100km north of Mombasa, is an exceptional hotel where not only will you savour the true flavour of Africa in a casual and friendly atmosphere but also enjoy water sports, soft drinks, sun loungers, entertainment and delicious full board meals – ALL INCLUSIVE. There's an inviting pool, games area, beachside bar, tennis and lots more and when you want to wander a little, the village of Watamu is close by.

Perhaps the highlight of your holiday will be the INCLUDED 1½ day Lion King Safari. You'll fly to the wilderness of Tsavo West National Park for a night under canvas with the expectation of seeing elephants, cheetah, giraffe, crocodile and lion to name but a few on spectacular scenic game drives in the shadow of snow capped Mount Kilimanjaro.

Departures are from London Gatwick and Manchester to Mombasa weekly from JANUARY TO JULY 1998 (excluding Christmas and New Year) and the price per person is based on sharing a twin room with private facilities and full board.

Treat yourself to that much needed dose of sunshine and send for your brochure now!

For FULL DETAILS & A BOOKING FORM Complete the coupon in block capitals and send to: THE INDEPENDENT KENYA SAFARI ADVENTURE, AFRICAN SAFARI CLUB, 35-37 EAST STREET, BROMLEY, KENT BR1 1JU. Or call the HOLIDAY BROCHURE HOTLINE ON 0181 466 0014. This holiday is operated by African Safari Club Ltd. ABTA 04080 ATOL 2313

Please send me further details of this exotic Kenya/Safari Adventure. NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Send me THE INDEPENDENT KENYA SAFARI ADVENTURE AFRICAN SAFARI CLUB, 35-37 EAST STREET, BROMLEY, KENT BR1 1JU. Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Nonpaper Publishing or its companies approved by Nonpaper Publishing Plc. ☐ **IND55**

## A TRAVELPLANNERS PROMOTION

### Las Vegas and the Canyonlands

Las Vegas • Hoover Dam • Grand Canyon • Verde Canyon • Montezuma Castle • Sedona • Scottsdale

from £599 per person

Combine the glamour of Las Vegas and the awesome scenery of Arizona's canyonlands. En-route you'll visit the spectacular Grand Canyon and enjoy a memorable rail journey through the isolated Verde Canyon. You will also have a chance to extend your stay in Scottsdale or the vibrant city of San Francisco.

#### THE ITINERARY

- Day 1: Fly from London to Las Vegas. On arrival transfer to your hotel for two nights.
- Day 2: Full day at leisure in Las Vegas.
- Day 3: Journey to Lake Mead for the awesome Hoover Dam. Continue to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon for one night. Watch the sunset over this magnificent landscape.
- Day 4: Visit the Grand Canyon again before heading to Flagstaff. Continue to Walnut Canyon and on to Oak Creek Canyon before arriving in Sedona for one night.
- Day 5: Enjoy a train ride through the spectacular Verde Canyon. Afterwards head to the ancient cliff dwellings of Montezuma Castle before continuing to Scottsdale for one night.
- Day 6: Check out of the hotel and transfer to Phoenix for your flight home, (unless you extend your stay in Scottsdale or San Francisco).
- Day 7: Arrive London.

Please return the coupon below to: Travelplanners, FREEPOST MB1949, Orpington, Kent, BR5 3BR.

Please send me further information on the Travelplanners Las Vegas and the Canyonlands Offer:

Mr/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_ Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Your Code GLAS

TRAVELPLANNERS

A trading name of H&M Leisure Publishing Ltd

For more information please call 0990 280083 or fax your details to 0181 559 2635 (please quote your name) or alternatively return the coupon

- ★ Return scheduled flights from London
- ★ UK airport departure tax
- ★ Baggage handling at hotels
- ★ Services of a tour escort in the USA
- ★ Hotel taxes
- ★ 5 nights accommodation
- ★ Transportation as per the itinerary

## Everyone's gone to the wall

The Great Wall was there on the mountain tops, decked in mist and threatened with clouds. The problem was that we were not getting any closer to it ... Louise Jury's visit to China coincided with the country's biggest national holiday.

If you have endured the junction of the M4/M5 on a Bank Holiday Monday, then picture the traffic. Double it, then triple it for the full effect around Peking on the day I was there earlier this year. The Chinese, perfectly at home on bicycles, appear to lose all sense of etiquette once in a motorised vehicle. In fact, they lose all sense.

Should you ever expect to be in China on 1 October, adjust your travel plans. The Chinese take their national holiday, a testimony to Chairman Mao and the foundation of the People's Republic, very seriously.

They are building a giant new road towards the Great Wall, one of the world's greatest cultural treasures, but it isn't finished yet. Our coach was squashed in the jam and did not move.

In the cities, the streets throng with holidaying Chinese, many visiting from the countryside, some apparently wearing their blue Chairman Mao suits as if they were Sunday best. Like the Japanese, they want you, the Westerners, to pose alongside them in their holiday snaps. Red flags fly in the streets, red Chinese lanterns hang from pillars and doorways, fairy lights bedeck the trees. Even the po-faced military enjoy a day out, posing in uniform in front of memorials to the appropriate state heroes - Mao and Sun Yat Sen.

And the Chinese are as fascinated by their cultural heritage as we are. Thousands of them take the opportunity of a few rare days off to absorb the beauty of the Summer Palace and the audacity of the Forbidden City. In Tiananmen Square, a thousand plants bloom in pots, bring-

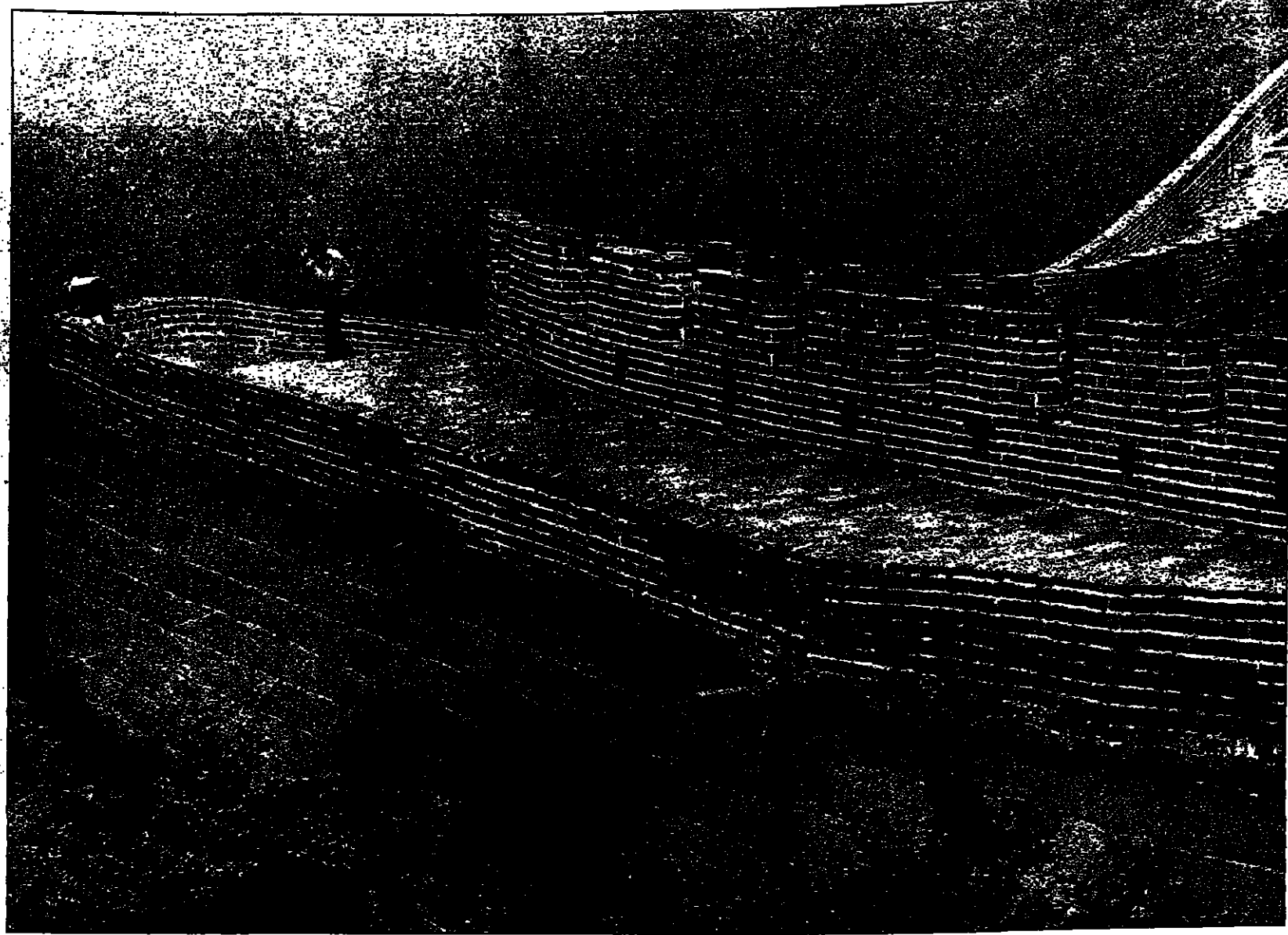
ing a militaristic grandeur and prompting a scatter-gun of camera flashes (though failing to erase the image of a lone protester standing bravely before a tank). Leaving Peking, thousands more head for the jaw-dropping vastness of the Great Wall.

Travelling in a party of 20 or so, we had spent the morning at the Ming tombs in the valley where 13 of the 16 Ming dynasty emperors lie buried. After lunch our organised tour group was cheerful as we travelled onwards to the wall. To the surprise of the local guide, evidently unaccustomed to Western spontaneity, some even burst into song. But after two hours spent barely moving, the prospect began to dawn that there was a risk that the Great Wall of China would remain a snake on the horizon.

Drastic action was taken. Our guide had a quick consultation with the driver and a colleague and decided that some wall was better than no wall. At a key junction, instead of turning left towards Badaling, one of the widest sections, fabled for its capacity to hold five horses prancing abreast, we turned right to a more obscure section. We were there.

Nothing can quite prepare you for the sight of the magnificent fingerprint of man that is the Great Wall. As you stare up from the coach park, it winds and twists steeply towards the sky, then curls round the mountain top and down before rising again. Even here, dozens upon dozens of visitors, mainly Chinese, were puffing their way up knee-challenging steps, clutching the prop of the handrail whenever offered, to look out towards the north and imagine Genghis Khan and his hordes arriving to terrorise the border guards. (In fact, he is supposed to have bribed them to let him in.)

At every tower, a gaggle of visitors would be haggling for a good price over the "I Climbed The Great Wall of China" T-shirts, the guidebooks and the signed certificate of your mountaineering success. There is even a camel to be clambered on and photographed with. But climb far enough, and even on this, arguably the busiest day of the year, the crowds disappear behind you.



The Great Wall of China ... as you won't see it on 1 October

Photograph: John Voos

The wall has been restored at most of the points where you are likely to arrive. But it is almost more magnificent where it stands crumbling, with scraggy weeds forcing their way between the cracks, but a still solid testament to the builders who began their work in the fifth century BC. It is difficult to comprehend the thinking behind such an astounding attempt to defend China's borders.

As I began the walk back, large, determined spots of rain fell. Figures began to dot masts and head for their coaches (nearly all arrive by coach), but there was no mad rush to leave the wall. I guessed that perhaps the majority of visitors would see it only once in their

lives, and intended to make the most of it. Yet back on ground, the adventure was barely over. If the traffic on the way there was bad, the return to Peking was unbelievable. The worst London roadhog has nothing on the Chinese. Absolutely no one would give an inch to another driver, even if that meant no vehicle moved. A breakdown caused an impasse that was resolved only when the engine finally decided to function after all. In the absence of any other route, we had to journey home through Badaling, our original destination.

I have never seen so many coaches, not even at Wembley. Hundreds in rows, moving, beneath vast walls illuminated, as

darkness fell, with fairy lights and spotlights. Compared with the stern majesty we had witnessed earlier, Badaling seemed a Santa's grotto, a tourist creation. Though the sight was impressive, there was general agreement that we had been lucky to see the wall bleak and unadorned.

Once moving, the traffic was terrifyingly reckless, overtaking on blind corners, travelling the wrong way down the other side of the road. The front coach seats, initially much favoured for the view, became tarnished with the horror of watching overtaking cars veer towards the side of the coach in late, desperate bids to avoid the oncoming traffic hurtling towards them. We

arrived back in Peking three-and-a-half hours late, as the national day was drawing to a close. Other parties did not arrive back until even later, at 2am or 3am, when we were already dreaming of overreaching emperors, invading Mongols and Genghis Khan.

A good way to avoid the crowds in China is to travel there in winter; you also benefit from extremely low prices. In January, for example, the China Travel Service (0171-836 9911) is offering fully inclusive nine-day tours based on Peking for £659, including non-stop flights from Heathrow, accommodation, transfers and all meals. The only extra is a visa, costing £24-£35.

TEL: 0171 293 2222

## TRAVEL: OVERSEAS

FAX: 0171 293 2505

**Take Off**

**AUSTRALIA**

**QANTAS**

**HIGH SEASON**

**£713**

**RETURN LOW FARE**

**HURRY! OFFER CLOSING 30 NOV**

**BOOK NOW**

**for travel up to 5 DEC**

**and between**

**12 JAN - 31 MAR '98**

**Includes:**

- Flying to Perth or Darwin
- FREE Return UK domestic flights
- 2 free stopovers en route at Bangkok and/or Singapore.

**Additional Extras:**

- 2 FREE domestic flights within Australia when flying into East Coast cities

**Or... see New Zealand, Australia, its Great Barrier Reef & the whole world**

**Includes:**

- FREE Return UK domestic flights
- 2 free stopovers from Qantas Global Network such as Johannesburg, Bangkok, Singapore, Malaysia, Bali, Hong Kong, Los Angeles, Fiji, Bombay.
- Up to 2 additional stopovers at £50 per stop
- 3 free domestic flights in Australia

**HIGH SEASON**

**£858**

**LOW FARE**

**TRAVELBAG**

**OFFICIALLY APPOINTED QANTAS AGENT**

**01420-88724 or 0171-287 5556**

QANTAS AGENTS: 12 High Street, Alton, Hants, GU34 1RN  
or  
52 Regent Street, London, W1R 6GX  
FAX: 01420-88723 or 0171-287 4222  
All fares subject to availability. Restrictions apply, ask for details.

**Take Off**

**AT £29**

**YOU'LL FIND OUR**

**SKI COVER**

**SNOW BOTTLER.**

**General Accident Direct offer**

**all insurance for under £29**

**per person. This comprehensive**

**cover includes damage to ski,**

**replacement ski hire, loss of**

**ski pass and photo charges. (For**

**travellers under 65 years.)**

**GA**

**General Accident**

**Direct**

**0800 121 007**

**OPEN EVERY DAY A WEEK**

**TRAVELBAG**

**LOW COST AIRFARES WORLDWIDE**

**LONGHORN CHARTERS FROM:**

**Cape Town £109 May £119**

**Los Vegas £109 October £149**

**Florida £129 Toronto £144**

**SRI CHARTERS FROM:**

**Glasgow £149 Madrid £59**

**Sidney £139 Tokyo £139**

**YORKSHIRE CHARTERS FROM:**

**Madrid £59 Rome £59**

**Las Vegas £79 Liverpool £79**

**Malaga £59 Majorca £79**

**Malaga £79 Tenerife £79**

**CHRISTMAS STOCKING FILLERS**

**DISCOUNT FLIGHT VOUCHERS**

**Longhorn Charters**

**Flight to Rome £120**

**Flight to Los Vegas £140**

**For all your LOW COST SCHEDULED**

**& CHARTER flights**

**after 6 Car Hire & Airport Transfer**

**& Airport Parking & Insurance**

**CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF**

**HUNDREDS MORE BARGAINS**

**0990 014101**

**NO CREDIT CARD PURCHASES**

**GOV TRAVEL**

**GOV TRAVEL**

**GOV TRAVEL**

**Special Interest Holidays**

**Small group**

**holidays off**

**the beaten**

**track...**

**For your free brochure call**

**01420 541007**

**TRAVELBAG**

**Adventures**

**Open 7 days a week**

**EGYPT JORDAN TURKEY YEMEN**

**PERU COLOMBIA PANAMA KENYA**

**ROMANIA TANZANIA GUATEMALA**

**BOTSWANA SOUTH AFRICA INDIA**

**NEPAL SRI LANKA CHINA**

**CHINA HAWAII MALAYSIA**

**ROMANIA**

**GUATEMALA**

**Vietnam Laos**

**Java Bali**

**USA Canada**

**Peru**

**Costa Rica**

**Colombia**

**Venezuela**

**India**

**Ecuador**

**Chile**

**Argentina**

**Special Interest Holidays**

**EXPLORE**

**New '98/99**

**brochure out now!**

**• Cultural Tours • Nature Tours**

**• Easy Hikes • Wilderness Safaris**

**• Major Treks • Seatrails**

**• River Journeys • Tailship Voyages**

**Over 170 adventures in Europe, Greece, Turkey,**

**Egypt, Middle East, Africa, India, China, Japan, Asia,**

**Americas, Aus/NZ: 8 days to 6 weeks. Prices from**

**£345 to £3450.**

**Call for brochure**

**01252 344161**

**Explore Worldwide (UK)**

**Aldershot, GU11 1LQ**

**Fully Bonded ATOL 2595**

**http://www.explore.co.uk**

**Puts other holidays in the shade**

**EXODUS**

**Discovery Holidays**

**Leaders in small group cultural tours and safaris worldwide (1-4 weeks)**

**9 Weir Road, London SW12 0LT. Ring 0181 673 0859 for brochure**

**http://www.exodus-travels.co.uk**

**The Nile Bike Ride**

**in aid of Mencap**

**The experience of a lifetime. 500km bike ride.**

**Luxor-Raswan-Luxor. Cycle by day, nights on a Nile**

**Cruise Boat. Fantastic sightseeing. Limited places.**

**For more details call now: 0645 777 779**

**Or write to: Nile Bike Ride, Mencap,**

**FREEPOST, London EC1B 1AA.**

**Blue Sky Appeal**

**Help the children of Sudan**

**Reg. Charity No. 222277**

**South America**

**Magic of Bolivia**

**Escorted tours by jeep to the most fascinating places.**

**Stay at our lodge south of Salto de Uyuni.**

**Personal service from people who really know Bolivia.**

**Tel: 0171 221 7310 Fax: 0171 727 8746**

**SKI-TOURING**

**TRAVELBAG**

**Call for our colour brochure**

**0114 275 7500**

**Special Interest Advertising**

**continues on page 8.**

**SRI LANKA**

**A SPECIAL PLACE**

**City Breaks**

**euro tours with**

**Paris Bruges Brussels**

**3 Star from £119**

**4 Star from £129**

**5 Star from £139**

**0181 289 8889**

**euro tours**

**TTA T7630**

**Bruges**

**City Breaks**

**Discover beautifully preserved**

**Bruges in Belgium from one of our**

**comfortable, cosy coach apartments.**

**Phone: 01502 602 605**

**Quote: A331**

**HOSEASONS**

**FRANCE SPECIALS**

**Flights**

**£125**

**Many City Breaks & Car Hire**

**European 1997 Brochure out NOW!**

**TRAVELBAG LTD.**

**0171 306 5000**

**0171 306 5001**

**Self Catering**

**EAST GERMANY: B&B and accom-**

**modation. Beautiful countryside, inter-**

**esting architecture. 01222 894**

**005**

**Don't forget**

**to mention**

**The Independent**

**when replying**

**to adverts**

**Mauritius**

**BEACHCOMBER**

**MAURITIUS**

**are the specialist**

**tour operator to**

**Mauritius and feature**

**seven of the most**

**exclusive resorts on**

**the island!**

**For the best**

**accommodation,**

**unrivalled service,**

**unsurpassed cuisine**

**and the finest**

**sporting facilities**

**call us on**

**01483 533008**

**or contact your local**

**independent travel**

**agent.**

**BEACHCOMBER**

**Sri Lanka**

**CAPE TRAVEL**

**is a small specialist tour**

**operator with a big reputation and years of**

**experience in arranging quality programmes**

**for individual travellers in the Indian Ocean**

**area.**

**Call the specialists now for details of an**

**out-of-the-ordinary experience in this**

**special place.**

**THE CAPE TRAVEL CO. LTD.**

**0181 943 4067 (Fax 0181 943 4086)**

Over the last 12 months  
readers of the Independent  
titles spent nearly £1.7 billion  
on travel arrangements.

Source: TGI 1997

**India**

**NEI (UK)**

**for India**

**Desert Safari in Rajasthan - Ayazuddin**

**businessmen, Lashin, Rajendra, Panchappa of Buddha.**

**And, of course, our second to none "tailor-made" service**

**30 New Road, Queen's Gate, London SW14 1UN**

**Tel: 0181 871 0000**

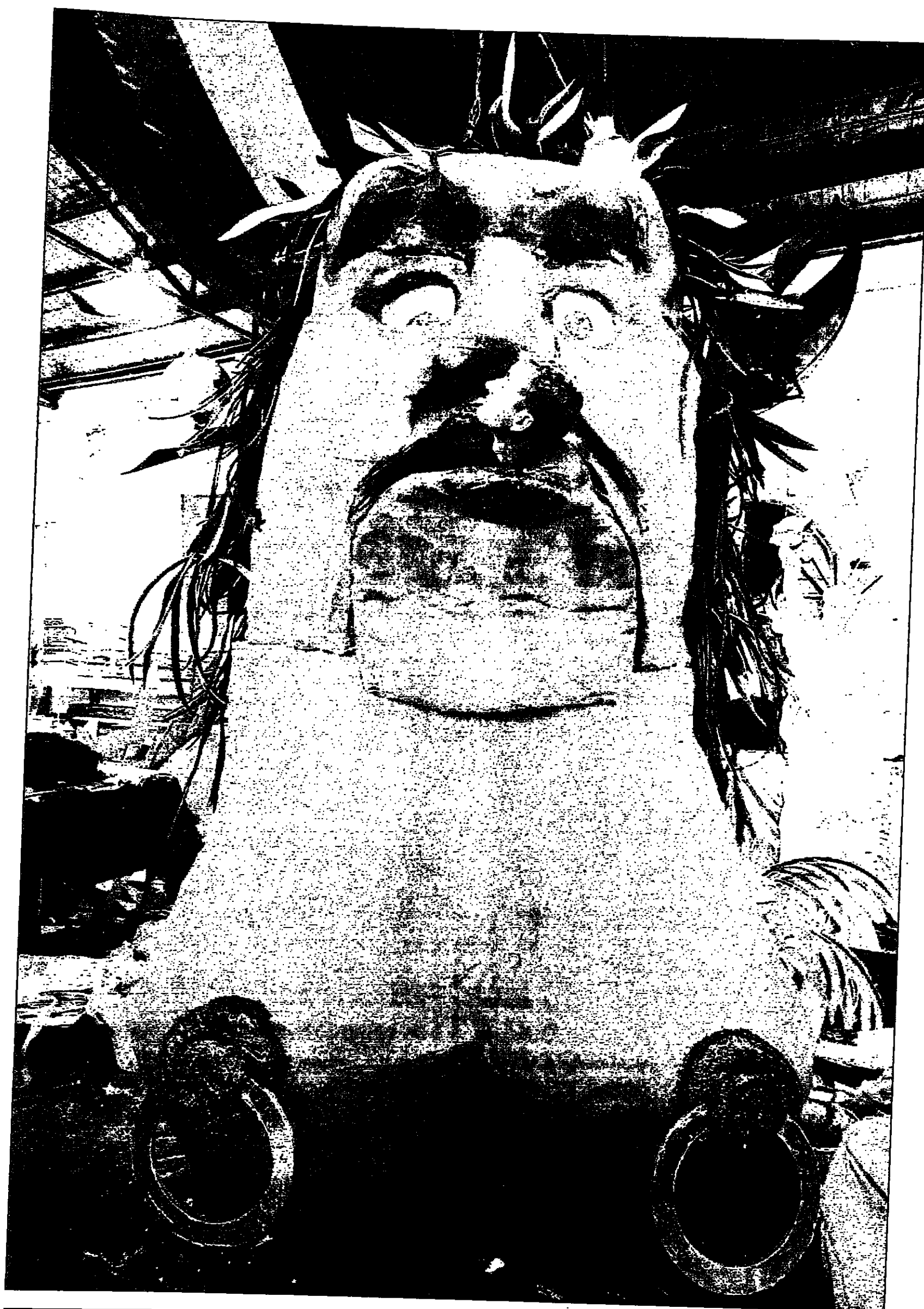
**Web site: <http://www.nei.co.uk>**

**E-mail: [indiainfo@nei.co.uk](mailto:indiainfo@nei.co.uk)**



# 7/FESTIVALS

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997  
7



## Go-go, or no-go?

Festivals often provide the *raison d'être* for travel, showing people and places at their most alluring and exciting. Sometimes, though, they can be a complete pain, making transport overcrowded and spare accommodation non-existent. *Simon Calder, Louise Jury and Harriet O'Brien* provide a guide to the pains and gains of various festivals around the world.

and traffic accidents are frequent in the cities. The real gain during Holi is that, very unusually for India, no one tries to sell you anything.

**Destination: Paris**  
**Event: Bastille Day**  
**Date: 14 July**

Arriving in Paris on Bastille Day without prior planning is a bad move. And finding an affordable hotel might prove impossible.

**Pain/gain ratio:** The city is a wonderful backdrop to celebrations. The fireworks which traditionally light the sky over the Eiffel Tower on 14 July are splendid. The firecrackers, which some Parisian youths think it is amusing to throw indiscriminately, are not.

**Destination: Brazil**

**Event: Mardi Gras**  
**Date: the week up to and including Shrove Tuesday, which falls on 24 February in 1998**

The ultimate street party takes place in the nation that lives on the street. For the week building up to the start of Lent, Brazil goes bonkers, with a frenzy of festivities. Some of these are formally organised, notably the huge three-day-long series of parades in Rio, when a dazzling sequence of floats decked with dancers celebrates the virility at the core of Brazil. Elsewhere, "Carnaval" is simply an excuse for reckless indulgence in alcohol, sex and dancing (sometimes, alarmingly, all at once).

**Pain/gain ratio:** You will not find such an intensity of humanity on any street, anywhere, though the Notting Hill Carnival (below) can come close. Unlike London W11, though, policing seems to be random with a tendency towards non-existence. The thieving classes of Brazil, active at the best of times, enjoy a week of unfettered robbery. People leaving the parade in Rio, at least by the route I took, had no choice but to run a terrifying gauntlet of pickpockets who grabbed at any loose item – and many that were not loose at all. A few days later, in Salvador de Bahia, I was warned by the hotel staff not to venture out while wearing glasses. So, unfortunately, pain outscored gain. Similar thrills and threats apply at the carnivals in Havana and New Orleans.

**Destination: Sydney**  
**Event: Gay Mardi Gras**

**Date: February (main parade is on the last day)**

All month long, Australia's largest city is the venue for a festival of performing arts, sport and community events. Even though Lent is already under way by the end of the month, on 28 February the streets of Sydney's city centre are given over to a ribald and raunchy celebration for lesbians and gay men at a parade more outrageous than in Rio.

**Pain/gain ratio:** There has been some controversy about whether "straight" people should attend, so heterosexuals may find the experience not altogether comfortable. But gay participants will find it a solid gold (lamé?) no-pain gain.

**Destination: Poland**  
**Event: Easter Sunday**

**Date: This falls on 12 April in 1998**

Poland on Easter Sunday has the unnerving calm of Christmas in Britain 25 years ago. Arriving in Cracow on the Saturday, everywhere is fairly quiet. On the Sunday it feels like not a bird is stirring. The only activity is at every church where, as befits a Catholic country, masses are held almost every hour. Nowhere is open, not even hotel restaurants.

**Pain/gain ratio:** One visitor ended up in McDonald's for almost the first time in her life. Never was she so grateful for American fast food.

**Destination: India**  
**Event: Holi**

**Date: This falls on 13 March in 1998**

The festival of colours is essentially a Hindu event but everyone joins in. People rush around splashing each other with coloured powder, everything (shops, offices, even tourist stalls) closes at least until noon, and as the day progresses so does the rowdiness.

**Pain/gain ratio:** anyone is fair game. If you go out anywhere you must expect to be quickly covered in red, black and green powder (which takes some time to wash off – wear old clothes). In many areas this is very jolly, but some women tourists have complained about being groped at the same time. It's best to avoid going out later in the day when there's often a high level of drunkenness

**Destination: Notting Hill, west London**

**Event: Carnival**

**Date: August bank holiday weekend.** Veterans of the Isle of Wight Festival in 1970 always drone on about how that was the biggest single-location festival ever, but the three-day thrash in London W11 each August bank holiday is possibly larger. London's Caribbean community is joined by professional partygoers from all over the world, for electrifying music, exciting food and a selection of intoxicating substances.

**Pain/gain ratio:** these days, very little pain – though no sensible participant risks turning up with much more than T-shirt, shorts and a small, sweaty wad of cash – and much gain.

**Destination: England and Wales**

**Event: Christmas**

**Date: 25 December, but travellers are affected for several days before and afterwards.**

The birth of Jesus is celebrated throughout the Christian world, but in some parts of Britain it is taken as an excuse for a near-total national shutdown. For a week beforehand, public transport is hopelessly overburdened. Then, on Christmas Eve, services are wound down. On 25 December itself, there is virtually no way of getting around without private transport. Most trains take the following day off, too, and many enterprises remain closed until 2 January.

**Pain/gain ratio:** Any gain to the traveller is difficult to assess, since most events are purely family affairs.

**Destination: the Islamic world**

**Event: Ramadan**

**Date: variable; this year, probably starting on 31 December and lasting for one lunar month**

The month of fasting is never a brilliant time to travel to the Islamic world, since the stress engendered by fasting throughout the hours of daylight can be intense for participants and travellers alike. In some areas non-Moslems are expected to observe the fast, too, while in public, most travellers would, in any event, wish to respect it.

**Pain/gain ratio:** For non-believers, no gain and plenty of pain. Entire nations can slow down to an ill-tempered crawl. The festival at the end of Ramadan, though, is often a hugely rewarding time to visit – particularly in the Arab world.

**Destination: Edinburgh**

**Event: Hogmanay**

**Date: 31 December**

The city that brought you *Trainspotting* also supplies the UK's greatest New Year celebration – so successful, that to quote the official guide: "You will need a pass to get into the street party on 31 December from 8pm. Passes are available free from the Hogmanay Box Office by personal application or by post"; the address for both is 21 Market Street, Edinburgh. Much of the city centre will be cordoned off, and part of the A1 closed down, while 300,000 people greet the New Year with music (from the likes of Jah Wobble and Salsa Celtica) and possibly with some assistance from strong liquor, though the official guide solemnly warns that "People under the influence of alcohol may be refused admission."

**Pain/gain ratio:** Transport links between Scotland and England are full to bursting before and afterwards. But the fun factor here is likely to be much higher here than at the parallel event in London's Trafalgar Square.



A time and a place for tourists ... Sydney's Mardi Gras parade, top; Bastille Day in Paris, left; Edinburgh at new year, above  
Photographs: David Grey/Michael Eater

## Presents for the future

A partridge in a pear tree won't get you far. The gift for the person who has everything is the world. Fortunately, writes *Simon Calder*, a veritable globe of travel-related presents can be found.

### Bus gift vouchers

The international coach operator Eurolines (0990 143219) sells gift vouchers in denominations of £10 and £20 – one of the former and two of the latter would be more than enough for a London-Paris return.

### Airline gift vouchers

All right, so airlines don't sell gift vouchers – but they do the next best thing. This is a Miscellaneous Charges Order (MCO), made out in the beneficiary's name to a certain value and exchangeable for air transport. In theory an MCO can be had for as little as £1, though these days that will get you nowhere fast; BA's lowest adult fare is £13, between Westray and Papa Westray in Orkney.

An MCO issued by an Iata airline can be used on other carriers. If the gift proves to be unwanted, then a full refund is possible providing you have paid in cash.

### Fear of flying class

If the love of your life refuses to soar to the skies with you, then offer to take the anxiety out of aviation. Aviatours (01252 793250) runs one-day courses based at Heathrow (next one 21 February) and Manchester (28 February).

A senior British Airways training captain and psychologists spend the first part of the day putting fears to rest. The course culminates in a 45-minute "round the houses" flight in a Boeing operated by a specially selected crew. The success rate is 98 per cent. High-priced Heathrow costs £179; moderate Manchester £149.

### Keeping to time

Patek Philippe has just launched a new watch that shows two time zones at once, priced in the region of £6,000. The one I use, a Casio, cost £24.99; I'm on my third already, the first two having met untimely ends, but I would need to get through another 397 before a Patek Philippe is justified.

Thomas Cook doesn't exactly offer a gift subscription for its rail schedules, but for £117.60 the company will supply your true love with 12 months of the oldest continuously published train schedule in the world, the European Timetable. Its bi-monthly Overseas counterpart costs £58.80.

### Reading matters

The arrival of Condé Nast *Traveller* to Britain's newsstands makes a glossy addition to the range of travel magazines. A year's worth will cost you £32.40, or £38 with three free bottles of wine; call 01858 435359. If you order by 1 December, the subscription will begin with the February edition, published in January; you will be sent a gift card to present to the beneficiary in the meantime.

The more established *Wanderlust* magazine appears bi-monthly. An annual subscription, £15, is available on 01753 620426. *National Geographic* doesn't just offer a

subscription – the recipient receives "A handsome personalised Membership Certificate suitable for framing and a brief illustrated history of the Society". Plus 12 issues, and some excellent maps, for a total of £24, if you write to the National Geographic Society, PO Box 19, Guildford GU3 3BR.

### Mixed blessings

The strangest present of the year is "Gate 23", an audio compendium of flight departure announcements at Heathrow airport, compiled on cassette by Jake Tilson, 16 Talford Road, London SE15 5NY (0171-701 3689), for the modest outlay of £6.

## OVERSEAS

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Take Off

Because we think the world of you ...

Unequivocal protection against airline insolvency - CAA approved

current best buys on the world's finest airlines

(incl. taxes)	one way	return	one way	return	one way	return		
SYDNEY	£336	£589	NEW YORK	£117	£161	MEXICO CITY	£261	£366
PERTH	£336	£589	BOSTON	£126	£165	INDIA	£187	£229
CAIRNS	£336	£589	CHICAGO	£157	£191	JO'BURG	£271	£322
AUCKLAND	£363	£677	FLORIDA	£175	£231	CAPE TOWN	£327	£382
BANGKOK	£272	£386	LOS ANGELES	£182	£228	HARARE	£325	£385
HONG KONG	£244	£376	SAN FRANCISCO	£182	£221	NAIROBI	£248	£287
SINGAPORE	£299	£347	DENVER	£231	£281	DUBAI	£186	£237
BALI	£263	£324	TORONTO	£176	£191	CARIBBEAN	£218	£210
BEIJING	£188	£314	VANCOUVER	£281	£291	GENEVA	£89	£89
TOKYO	£311	£506	LAS VEGAS	£226	£226	AROUND THE WORLD	£577	£577

plus discounted quality accommodation per room per night from

AUSTRALIA £36 • USA £31 • AFRICA £31 • PACIFIC £40 • ASIA £27  
USA CAR HIRE FROM £12 PER DAY • CALL NOW FOR OUR TAILORMADE WORLDWIDE AND NORTH AMERICA BROCHURES

All our travel centres are open Mon-Sat 9-5pm • Thurs 9-7pm • Sun 10-5pm

## TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

USA SPECIALS

ORLANDO fr £231 WASHINGTON fr £165

SEATTLE fr £231 HONOLULU fr £393

RETURN FARES EXCLUDING TAXES. MUST BOOK BY 14 DECEMBER

ALL INCLUSIVE CAR HIRE FROM \$152 PER WEEK

CALL NOW FOR OUR NEW TAILORMADE NORTH AMERICA BROCHURE

HOTELS • CAR HIRE • TRAVEL INSURANCE • TOURS • CRUISES • RAILWAYS • TRAVEL AGENTS

Trailfinders does not impose charges on credit cards

worldwide attention to detail

For the real lowdown on worldwide travel, Trailfinders is your one stop travel shop. Trailfinders offers more low cost flights to more destinations than anyone. Experts in airfares since 1870, we can tailor-make your very own package with up to 65% discount on hotels and car hire worldwide.

FOR YOUR FREE COPY OF THE TRAILFINDER MAGAZINE CALL 0171-938 3366 ANYTIME

ATOL 1458 • IATA • ABTA 68761

42-50 Earls Court Road  
Long Haul Travel:  
194 Kensington High Street  
Long Haul Travel:  
First & Business Class:  
215 Kensington High Street  
Transatlantic & European:  
Worldwide Travel:  
48 Corn Street  
Worldwide Travel:  
254-284 Saatchi & Saatchi Street  
Worldwide Travel:  
58 Deansgate  
Worldwide Travel:  
First & Business Class:  
LONDON W8 6FT  
0171-938 3366  
LONDON W8 7RG  
0171-938 3339  
0171-938 3444  
LONDON W8 6BD  
0171-937 5400  
BIRMINGHAM B4 6BS  
0121-236 1234  
BRISTOL BS1 1HQ  
0117-929 0000  
GLASGOW G2 3EH  
0141-353 2224  
MANCHESTER M3 2FF  
0161-839 6969  
0161-839 3434

... people think the world of us!

## QUEST WORLDWIDE

OPEN 7 DAYS 4-10 Richmond Road, Kingston, Surrey KT2 5HL

WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

SYDNEY return from £589

CAIRNS return from £589

PERTH return from £589

AUCKLAND return from £648

BANGKOK return from £379

HONG KONG return from £369

DELHI return from £319

SINGAPORE return from £369

DUBAI return from £299

NAIROBI return from £379

JO'BURG return from £349

0181 547 3322

ABTA 49256 ATOL 3255 IATA All fares exclusive of airport taxes

## Far East USA Canada

HONG KONG • THAILAND • BALI • MALAYSIA • SINGAPORE • INDIA

USA CANADA SPECIALS

ORLANDO return from £169

CHICAGO return from £199

LOS ANGELES return from £249

MIAMI return from £249

NEW YORK return from £169

ORLANDO return from £229

ST. FRANCISCO return from £249

WASHINGTON return from £179

TORONTO return from £219

VANCOUVER return from £319

MEXICO return from £359

01420-80828 or 0171-287 5558

51 Regent Street, London, W1B 6GU FAX: 01420-82183 or 0171-287 4522

All fares subject to availability. Restrictions apply. See for details.

### BACKPACKER

Medical Insurance for the Young and Active

including hospitalisation, emergency expenses, up to £1 Million

AGES 16-35

PREMIUMS

30 Days	£18
60 Days	£33
90 Days	£48
120 Days	£63
150 Days	£78
180 Days	£93
210 Days	£108
240 Days	£123
270 Days	£138
300 Days	£144
330 Days	£155
360 Days	£165

THE TRAVEL INSURANCE CLUB LTD.

0800 16 35 18

### CHRISTMAS

FLORIDA & ALL OVER USA  
CARIBBEAN & FAR EAST  
CANARIES, MADRID & ELAT  
FLIGHTS/RESORTS/APARTMENTS

FOURWAYS TRAVEL  
0181 907 0205  
Retail Agents for ATOL Holders  
ABTA 30126

### LOW COST FLIGHTS

USA CANADA AUSTRALIA  
NEW ZEALAND SOUTH AMERICA  
CARIBBEAN FAR EAST  
MIDDLE EAST AFRICA

### THIRTYWAY TRAVEL

0171-490 1490

### FLIGHTSEATS

Alaska £120 • Dallas £200  
Chicago £120 • Miami £120  
Houston £120 • New York £120  
Philadelphia £120 • San Francisco £120  
Seattle £120 • Tokyo £120  
Washington £120 • Los Angeles £120  
London £120 • Paris £120  
Frankfurt £120 • Rome £120  
Brussels £120 • Amsterdam £120  
Zurich £120 • Bern £120  
Basel £120 • Lucerne £120  
Geneva £120 • Zurich £120  
Basel £120 • Lucerne £120  
Geneva £120 • Zurich £120

0990 239904

### Independent and Independent

on Sunday readers took a  
total of 3.8 million flights  
outside the UK last year.

Source: TGI 1997

### Year round European travel cover.

From 16p a day.

At £99.95 a year, the security of annual cover arranged by American Express is effectively yours from just 16 pence a day. To enrol, call quoting reference INU1

0800 700 737

Policy Terms and Conditions are available on request. American Express Services Europe Ltd is an independent intermediary governed by the ABI code of conduct. American Express Services Europe Limited, Registered Office: Portland House, Reg Place, London E14 6SE. Registered Number: 180179.

### Special Interest Holidays

#### OKAVANGO TOURS & SAFARIS

Simply the best for tailored holidays in:

Tel: 0181 343 3283  
Fax: 0181 343 3287  
See our website:  
http://www.okavango.com  
Godd House,  
Avenley Avenue,  
London N3 2TJ

#### Overland Adventures

Africa, Asia, India,  
South & Central America

- 2 to 37 weeks with 16 years experience
- Unique custom built vehicles
- Hotel trips & camping trips

Dragonman

01728 861133  
1 Lion Lane, London, W1A 6PA  
www.dragonman.co.uk

### CHEAPEST FLIGHTS

0121 688 9898  
0181 943 9431

SUNSHINE VACATIONS

### Overseas Travel

### TECNO TRAVEL

DAILY USA FLIGHT  
DEPT 26 DEC - 31 MAR

N. YORK/BOSTON	227
WASHINGTON	227
ATLANTA	237
CHICAGO	249
HOUSTON/DALLAS	277
L. VEGAS/PHOENIX	289
L. ANGELES	305
SAN FRANCISCO	325
MEDICAL INSURANCE FOR USA 20W £23 4W £26	

For friendly, efficient service call  
0171 482 0414

### Paris £69\*

### Brussels £65\*

### Life £59\*

0345 30 30 30  
or see an appointed travel agent or railway station.

EUROSTAR

### WHY SHOP AROUND FOR TRAVEL INSURANCE? IT'S FREE AT LUNN POLY.

With any overseas holiday over £299. Just ask at any Lunn Poly Holiday Shop.

### Lunn Poly

A better way to getaway

Free insurance applies to holidays with a duration of up to 17 days only, costing £250 or more per person on short holidays, £250 or more per person on long holidays. Offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer or discount. Offer applies to new bookings only. Offer subject to availability. Full details available in shops.

### WALKING HOLIDAYS CAN BE AGONY

Just think of it, they give you your tickets, a hotel voucher or two, some marked maps and you're off. At every unmarked path junction you and the partner have a fight over which one to take, most of the day you're lost, and in the evening a fenderhead brings you home in his tractor; at least that makes a story. Next day, lo and behold, you repeat it all. What folly, when you could join a real holiday with Ramblers. We've been doing it for fifty years and reckon by now we know how. All our holidays are escorted small parties, you don't even have to bring a map or think about the programme, just be there at the appointed time and our leader does it all. People come back year after year, because our holidays are so enjoyable. Some clients write recently that they thought about all the wasted holidays they had taken before finding Ramblers. Have you wasted your holidays? To get you on the road for a real holiday, request our brochure. From a walking centre in the Lake District, throughout Europe, South Africa, the Americas, Australasia, Nepal and lots more. All holidays are graded. Probably the travel world's most readable brochure and we're hardly ever beaten on price. Comfortable hotels, mostly scheduled flights. Try us, you won't regret it!

RAMBLERS HOLIDAYS BOX, 43, WELWYN GARDEN, AL8 6PQ  
Tel: 01707 331133 Fax: 01707 333276 E-mail: ramhols@del.pipex.com

Established 1946

### USA and CANADA

★ XMAS TORONTO FLIGHTS ★

Depart 19 Dec £229 - Tax  
Return on 6 or 7 Jan

Depart 24 Dec £229 - Tax  
Return on 6 or 7 Jan

★ Orlando	from £139	★ Toronto	from £119
★ Boston	from £159	★ Montreal	from £210
★ New York	from £159	★ Vancouver	from £325
★ Chicago	from £191		
★ Los Angeles	from £241		
★ San Francisco	from £261		

0990 329 326

Lines Open: Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm.  
All fares are low season return flights, subject to availability and include airport taxes.  
Price Checker Holidays & Travel Ltd. ABTA 11146 ATOL 220 1074

### HOLIDAY HOMES & HOTELS

Look early and save 20% on many holidays

Currency Exchange Offer on Holiday Homes £1 = FF10

Range of self-catering holidays and hotels in France & Spain

Holiday Homes including Cottages, Villas

Reside Apartments, Holiday Villages & Hotels

CALL NOW FOR A BROCHURE 0990 143 537  
OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

On selected holidays see brochure for full details.

### 1998 BROCHURE OUT NOW!

Look early and save 20% on many holidays

Currency Exchange Offer on Holiday Homes £1 = FF10

Range of self-catering holidays and hotels in France & Spain

Holiday Homes including Cottages, Villas

Reside Apartments, Holiday Villages & Hotels

CALL NOW FOR A BROCHURE 0990 143 537  
OR SEE YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

On selected holidays see brochure for full details.

### GENITALIA, ALGARVE, MADRIDA, MOROCO, TUNISIA, GUERNSEY, JERSEY, MARRAKECH, MALTA, COZCO, COMINO, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND & CRUISES

- ★ SUPER selection of 3, 4 & 5 star hotels
- ★ DAYTIME scheduled flights
- ★ FABULOUS child discounts, single rooms, celebratory packages, free guide book & international discount cards
- ★ Holidays from 1-16 nights
- ★ PRICE FLEDGE - you can't buy cheaper

Reservations 01708 625500  
Brochure Hotline 0990 171819  
World Travel Specialists  
Call 01708 625500  
ABTA 17166 ATOL 678

### WHEN YOUR KIDS LAND, THEY STAY FREE.

reservations 0171 581 1161 brochure 01455 852202  
contact your travel agent or www.clubmed.com

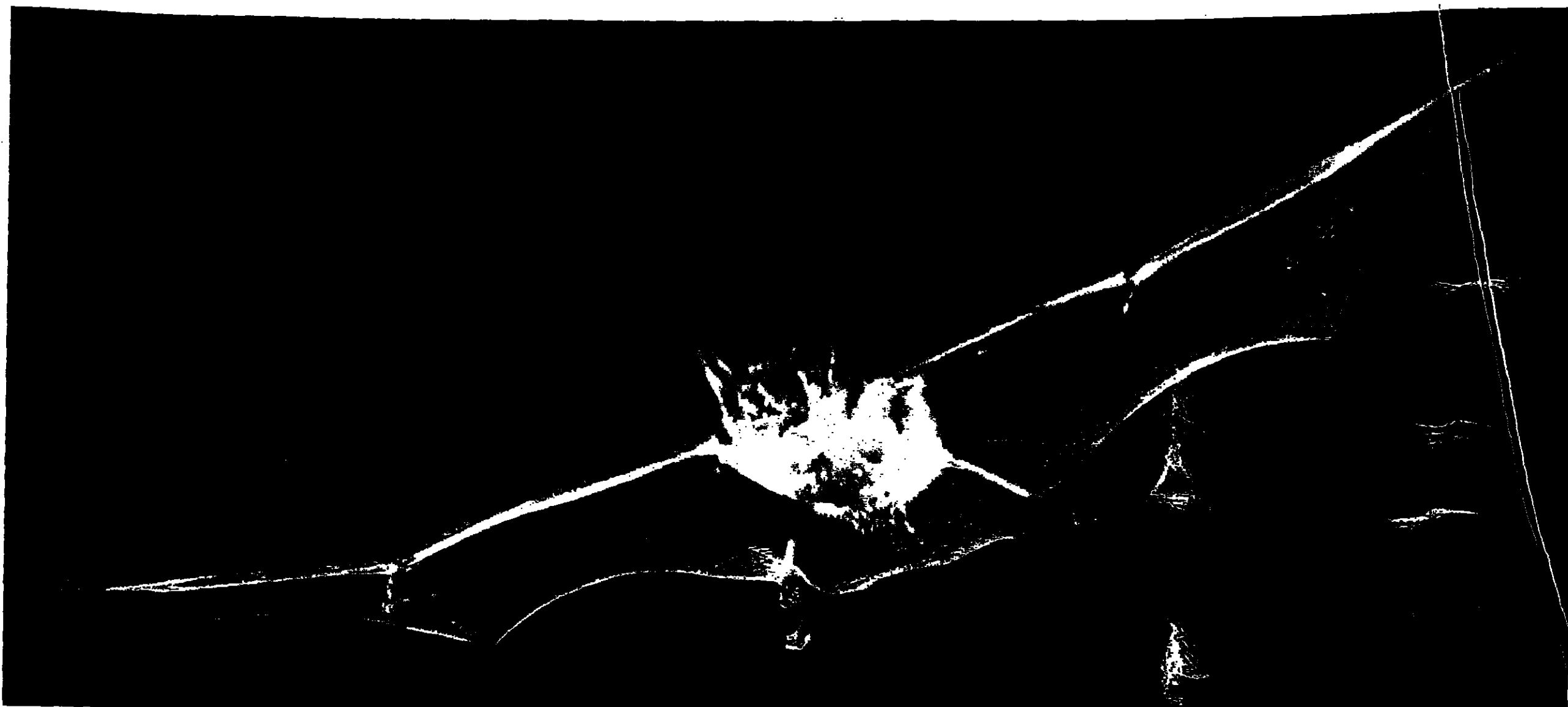
Adults from £524 per week

### Don Miguel Spain Club Med

Accordin

The down





Insect-seeking missile: bats use ultrasound to detect their prey. The mouse-eared bat, above, is one of the 15 species resident in this county

Photograph: Werner Cuth/Ardea

## According to the boffins, it shouldn't have left the ground

Awareness of Britain's bat population is very much improved. But, writes Daniel Butler, there's still much to learn about these strangest of mammals.

"Take a good look at your local bats now. You're not going to see much of them for the next five months: they're going torpid," Chris Thain, of the Radnorshire Wildlife Trust, peers through the narrow window built into the gate closing off a disused railway tunnel on the Giffach Nature Reserve. "I found a natterer's bat settling down here last week," he observes. "It's an ideal hibernation site: humid, frost-free and with a steady temperature."

His interest is indicative of a transformation in our attitudes to the largest but least-known group of British mammals. Given this country's reputation for pioneer zoology, it seems remarkable that until recently bats were almost totally overlooked; the first specialist book on British bats was not published until 1946. It was the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981 that really got things going. "This gave protection for the first time," explains Tony

Hudson, senior conservation officer at the Bat Conservation Trust. "There was a huge boost in interest, and dozens of local bat groups were formed almost overnight."

The result was that amateurs began to add significantly to scientific understanding. "Bats used to be considered hard to study but in fact they are easy if you track them down to their roosts - particularly if you use ultrasound," says John Messenger, of the Vincent Wildlife Trusts.

He illustrates the shortfall in knowledge by pointing out that when he started his present job in 1984 there was only one bat species on the Radnorshire mammal list; 10 others have since been discovered. Indeed, it was this sudden interest that led an amateur bat watcher to notice that his local pipistrelles had two ultrasonic call ranges. This was followed by further tests: "They look identical, but DNA testing shows them to be more different than tigers and lions," says Messenger. This means Britain's 14 resident bats will soon become 15, once the newcomer has been formally named and catalogued.

Similarly, it was enthusiasts, such as Ginni Little, of the Penzance Bat Hospital, who noticed that "vagrants" (blown in from Europe by storms), were significant

"A local tree surgeon brought in an immature male *Nathusius pipistrelle*," she explains. "Because it takes two years for these to reach sexual maturity, this meant it must have been born here." Other records soon confirmed that it was relatively widespread: now it's an official migrant.

Although many bats don't hibernate

properly - becoming active during warm spells throughout the winter - most are now becoming torpid at the end of a frenetic autumn spent hunting insects. Those still visible are likely to be this year's youngsters, trying desperately to build up body fat for the lean winter months ahead. However, as temperatures fall and insect numbers

plummet, the animals will spend more and more nights resting in hibernation sites. Abandoned mines, caves and culverts are favoured by most species, but others, such as the noctule, prefer hollow trees.

Such hibernation patterns are probably better understood than bats' mating habits. Although gestation is only three months long, births occur in June. This is thanks to delayed fertilisation, whereby females store and nurture male sperm cells within their bodies through the winter. How they overcome rejection by their own immune systems is still not understood.

The heavily pregnant females also manage to hunt while carrying a foetus that can weigh more than a quarter of their own body weight. Once born, the youngster is raised on the richest milk of any terrestrial mammal and, depending on the species, within three to six weeks it is hunting alongside its mother.

For most people the pipistrelle is much the most likely bat to be encountered. This is mainly because of its fondness for modern buildings. Any bat seen emerging from the eaves on a summer evening is almost certain to be a pipistrelle (although such roosts are abandoned in winter for more thermostatically stable subterranean lairs).

Like all our bats, they are insectivorous, hunting with ultrasound, principally at dawn and dusk, making use of high-frequency echo-location to detect their prey.

Although the principles are now well understood, until recently it was a puzzle how such a tiny creature manages to fly while carrying a powerful echo-location device. This was calculated to be as aerodynamically "impossible" as the flight of the bumblebee, until it was discovered that the same muscles are used for both flight and sound-generation. Even so, scientists still do not fully understand how bats predict when hunting forays will burn up more calories than they produce. Thus, even on a summer evening bats may choose to roost if insects are scarce, yet they may hunt at midday during a mild January. So if your local bats have already disappeared, it is temporary - you may well see them before Easter.

Where to find out more about bats: "Bats" by Phil Richardson (Whitaker Books, £7.99) is an excellent general guide. The Bat Conservation Trust produces a free leaflet; send one to 15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road, London SW8 4BG. Anyone finding an injured bat should contact the Penzance Bat Hospital, which runs a 24-hour help line (01736-365687).

### NATURE NOTE

For anyone who wants to watch wildlife, the most important precept is to keep still. By walking straight through a wood, you clear the ground ahead of you; but if you sit down and remain motionless for a while, you become part of the scenery, and greatly increase your chances of seeing some memorable sight. Out in the country, nothing attracts attention like movement. To a static observer, one flick of a deer's ear will betray the fact that a large animal is standing in a thicket, otherwise unseen. Cats and foxes employ stillness as a form of attack, crouching motionless, and therefore unnoticed, as prey comes into range; but many animals and some birds instinctively use immobility in defence. A pheasant, surprised out in a field, will crouch down and not move a muscle till danger passes. A squirrel disturbed by passing humans runs up a tree, flattens itself on a branch and does not shift again until the coast is clear. To numerous wild creatures, stillness is salvation.

Duff Hart-Davis

## 'The punters are surging up and down the aisles like spring tides'

The setting: a huge Christmas fair near Malmesbury. The challenge: to sell copies of your own book. The technique: think of yourself salmon-fishing...

Without raising my head I can see a woman steering straight for our table. A day and a half at this game have taught me that timing is vital.

It's exactly the same as salmon-fishing: when you feel a fish take your fly, every instinct tells you to strike - but in fact what you must do is wait. So, now, I tell myself, do not look up too soon. Here she is, in front of our left-hand show-card. I raise my head and give a glowing smile.

Waste of time and effort. The woman - a large, middle-aged person wearing a dark-green cardigan and skirt - is glaring sideways at the card with an air of incomprehension. I see her lips mouthing the title of my book - *When the Country Went to Town*. "What's it about?" she barks, in a sharp baritone.

"Well - the countryside marches, and the rally in Hyde Park on 10 July."

"Is it any good?"

What the hell is the answer to that? After rapid sifting of various alternatives - "Brilliant", "Rubbish" - I come up with the feeble "Not a lot!"

She grabs a copy and glares again. Just as I am gloomily deciding she has no interest in country affairs, she suddenly says, "All right - I'll have five."

Five copies at once! Ye gods - a bonanza. A peep into the customer's bag reveals that it is stuffed with £20 notes. My publisher, David, takes her money while I scribble five signatures on the title pages - and then we both eagerly scan the crowd for more of her ilk.

The scene is one of the Christmas fairs run by that redoubtable organiser, Mary Howard. To have yellow AA signs made out simply with your name on them, you must

be a big cheese - and she is: by her own efforts she has raised some £50,000 for charity, and her fairs make £50,000 a year for charitable causes. So the road signs say simply "Mary Howard", funneling fans into Hullavington airfield, near Malmesbury.

The fair is in one of the hangars: an amazing structure about 300ft long, nothing but a gracefully curved roof, which sweeps right down to ground level on either hand. Inside, the press of punters is terrific: wild-eyed, and 98 per cent female, they surge up and down the aisles like spring tides. When word comes round that today alone

### DUFF HART-DAVIS

nearly 3,000 have paid the £4 entrance fee, I can well believe it.

But how does one engage their attention? Jump up and down? Gesticulate? Shout? Smirk? Look the other way? Gripe like an ape? Stand up? Sit down?

Professional shopkeepers doubtless have their methods, but for a beginner, the uncertainty is hell. David has a theory that it is essential to keep our table well stacked with piles of copies - a state of play which (a cynic might remark) is all too easy to maintain.

My mind wanders to the disused airfield outside. I keep thinking how, over in East Anglia, the Thurlow Hunt has just won a major conservation award for its rehabilitation of a Second World War bomber base: there, volunteer workers have broken up the old runways and returned the land to grass, corn and trees. Will that ever happen here at Hullavington? Or will the vast, level expanse be used for houses, in preference to more scenic areas, as many people feel it should?

Look out, though. Concentrate. Here comes an obvious countryman: red face, hefty build. He takes one look at the book and says, "I should think that's pretty boring."

For a moment I am speechless. Then I come back with, "It's fairly light, anyway."

Bright blue eyes fasten on me.

"In fact," I blunder on, "it's so light you more or less have to hold it down to read it."

No spark of amusement softens that stare. Off he goes, clearly with the impression that I am crazy.

Feeling in need of a stiff whisky, I mutter to David: "No more jokes," and square up to a girl of about 16. Even if she is peniless, at least she has a lively face.

"Were you at the rally?"

"Of course!"

"And on one of the marches?"

"The day from Stow-on-the-Wold."

"Great!"

Immediately she buys a copy for her boyfriend. "He was in Hyde Park," she says, "so please write something really rude in it."

"What - like 'Up yours'?"

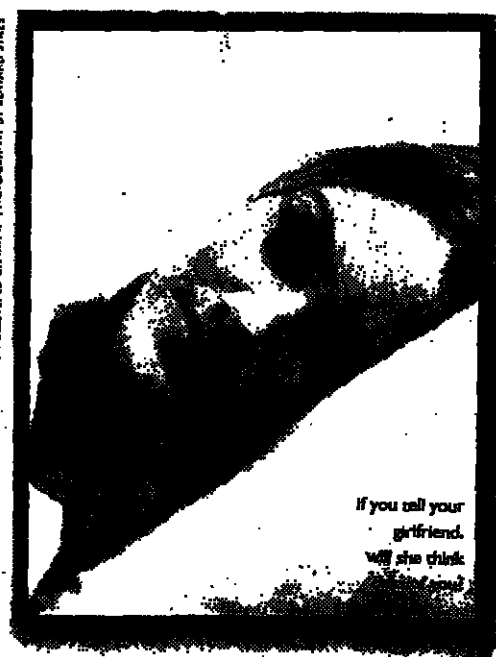
"Not as rude as that."

She settles for "Mark - Where were you?" Then suddenly she says, "Oh, look. I need two more." She pays cash, professes herself delighted, and is gone. With time to study the throng, we notice the same people coming past again and again. They are in slow orbit, searching for Christmas presents with ever-increasing desperation. Several raise my hopes by veering in towards us, but then cry out: "Where's the canteen?"

By 5.30pm, after seven hours on duty, I have had enough. I decide I am not cut out for selling.

Napoleon famously dismissed England as "une nation de boutiques". But did he realise what physical stamina shopkeepers need, to stand around all day; what mental reserves they must have, to combat lack of trade, boredom and insults? I salute them - even if, at the same time, I am profoundly glad that my stint behind the counter is over.

SOMETIMES IT'S  
EASIER TO TALK  
TO SOMEONE  
YOU DON'T LIKE



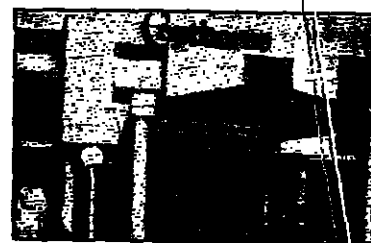
When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone. But who? That's where The Samaritans come in. We're discreet, sympathetic and completely unshockable.

Our national number is 0345 90 90 90, or you can e-mail us on jo@samaritans.org

The Samaritans

### THE INDEPENDENT

Win a Christmas Shopping Weekend to Calais with Copthorne Hotels and Le Shuttle



COPTHORNE

Make Christmas shopping less stressful this year by winning a luxury weekend break at the 3 star Copthorne Calais Hotel.

To enter, simply dial the number below, and leave your answer to the following question.

Q: What is the star rating of the Copthorne Calais?

0930 563 564

The Hotel is conveniently situated by the Channel Tunnel Terminal and Cite Europe shopping complex which offers a wide choice of 150 shops and boutiques. Ideal to finalise your Christmas shopping.

The weekend break includes a two night stay in one of the luxury Connoisseur rooms, with breakfast, a meal for two in the hotel restaurant and a free bottle of champagne to celebrate.

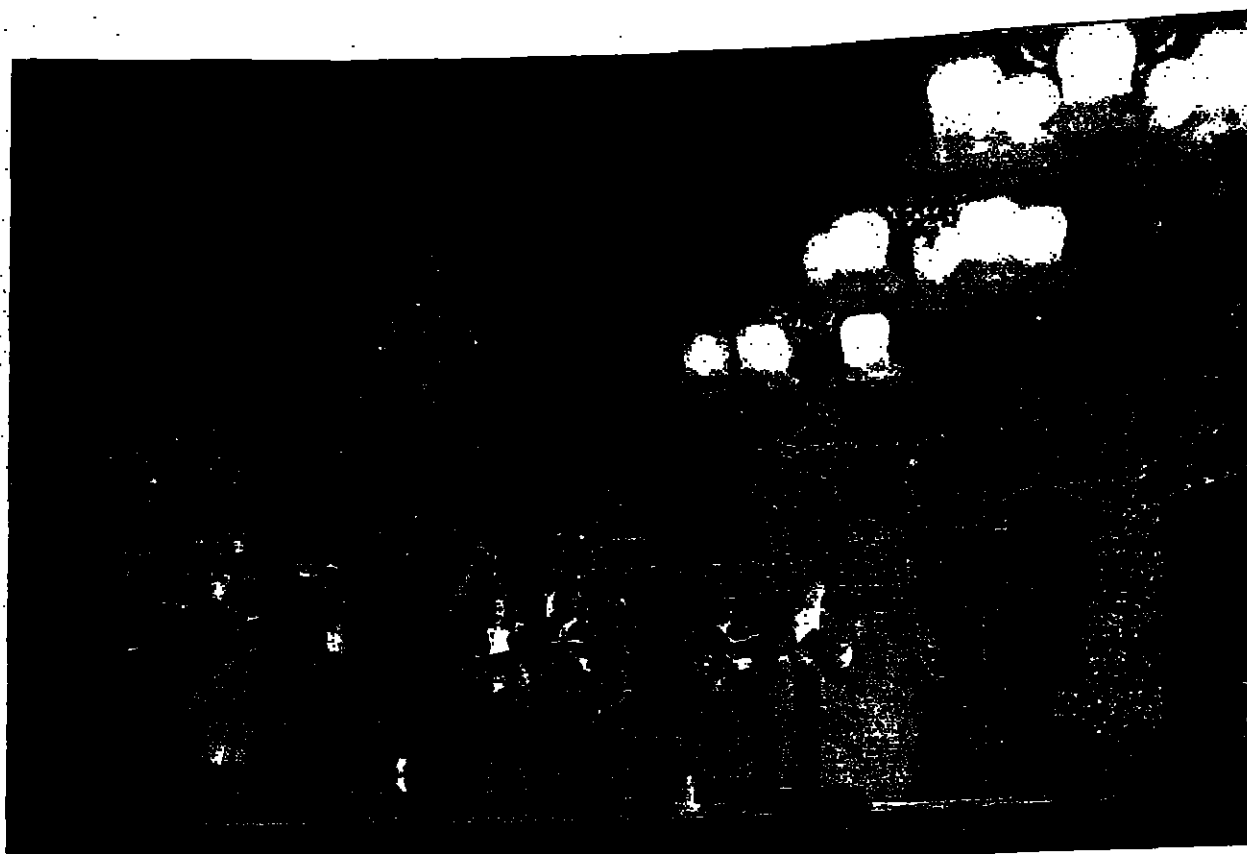
You can also take full advantage of the Hotel's excellent health and leisure facilities.

All Independent readers are eligible for a special rate of £45 per person for an overnight break at the Copthorne Coquella Calais. Price includes one night bed & breakfast & return Le Shuttle ticket based on two in a car, valid until 23/12/97.

To book call Le Shuttle Holidays on 0990 353535 and quote "The Independent Promotion". Prices are based on two people sharing a room. A limited number of rooms are available.

Call now 50p per minute at all times. Winner picked at random after last close 29 November 1997. Local Newspaper Publishing rules apply. Editor's decision is final.

# 10/OUTINGS



Spectacular variety: the Thursford Christmas show is billed as Britain's biggest

Photograph: Bryn Coulton

## The great Christmas barn bonanza

Britain's biggest Christmas spectacular takes place in a tucked away village. Louise Duffield went to the opening night.

If someone asked where in this country you could find the largest Christmas show, few would suggest a venue outside of London. There would be even fewer who would suggest Norfolk. And if anyone said "in a museum barn in a remote village", then it could only mean one thing - that they'd already been privileged to see one of Thursford's Christmas Spectaculars. Billed as the largest Christmas production in England, the Thursford Spectacular is quite some festive sight. But what is all the more remarkable about the show is that it is staged in an enormous barn which, for the rest of the year, is home to a collection of steam engines, organs and fairground memorabilia.

The Thursford Christmas Spectacular started as a small-scale carol concert 20 years ago and has become so popular that every show is a sell-out, and visitors travel from all over the country to see it.

It is the variety of the Thursford event that is unique: nowhere else can you see such a combination of choirs, singers, dancers and musicians. The organist from the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, sits alongside musicians from the band of the Prince of Wales's Division (Lacknow) on the programme, while the Thursford Dancers put their interpretation on such pieces as "Lord of the Dance", "Rockin' all over the World" and "Dance of the Snowmen". The St Nicholas Choir, a bagpiper and a harpist are also vital parts of the production, not to mention the live turkey, basket of ferrets and dove flypast.

It takes three weeks to turn the home of the Thursford Collection into a sparkling winter wonderland of glitter, tinsel and lights. The barn itself contains 20 steam engines, a magnificent, 100-year-old fairground gondola switchback ride, a mighty Wurlitzer organ, and a host of musical fairground organs. A further 30 engines are awaiting restoration.

The seed that was to grow into this unique collection was planted when the founder George Cushing, now 94, visited a traditional fairground as a boy. He was

amazed and bewitched by the steam engines, which sparked off a life-long passion for the huge, hissing objects. As a young man he saved every penny he had and bought a second-hand traction engine, and worked as a contractor. He still has that machine - and dozens of others, which he saved from the scrapheap so that future generations could live the age of steam. The love of steam engines brought Mr Cushing into contact with mechanical fairground organs, which he soon began adding to his collection. Then came the beautiful 19th-century Gondola switchback fairground ride, built in the Norfolk factory of the merry-go-round creator Frederick Savage. Today it is powered by electricity for convenience, but in its heyday it ran on steam.

But one of the most popular attractions at Thursford is undoubtedly the Wurlitzer organ - formerly housed in a Leeds cinema and the fourth largest in Europe with 1339 pipes. Resident organist Robert Wolfe gives regular afternoon concerts.

**The visitors**  
Sharon Lloyd, an office clerk, went to the Thursford Collection's Christmas Spec-

tacular with her son Adam, 12, and daughter Nicola, eight.

**Sharon:** This is probably the fifth time that I have been to one of Thursford's Christmas shows, and I still think it is so magical. I keep coming back because to me it sums up Christmas. It has something to appeal to most ages, because the show switches from serious music by the choir to humorous geese strutting around the stage. If you don't like one thing, then you don't have to wait long before something different appears on stage.

I think it would be well worth going to visit Thursford when the Christmas decorations are down, and the regular attractions are on display.

**Adam:** I thought the show was great. There was a lot of singing and dancing, and there were animals and everything involved. My favourite bit was the last bit, where the balloons came down and the doves flew past.

The first time I saw the Christmas decorations, I thought they were very good. I liked the shops because they sold a wide variety of things. I bought a badge. Some

people of my age wouldn't like the Christmas show because they are into rave. I have seen steam engines at the Royal Norfolk Show and I thought they were quite good, so I may like to come back and have a look at the ones they have at Thursford.

**Nicola:** I thought it was brilliant because it was fun and exciting, and the songs were good. It was very colourful and the decorations were lovely. I had loads of favourite parts, but I especially liked the song "Santa Claus is Coming to Town", and when they were doing "Lord of the Dance", and the bagpipes. I had never seen any bagpipes before. I hope I can go again. I bought some flashing Christmas tree earrings in the shop.

**The deal**  
The Thursford Christmas Show is staged at the Thursford Collection, Thursford Green, Thursford, near Fakenham, Norfolk (01328 878477). There are two shows every day, at 2.30pm and 7pm, until 23 December, but the only tickets available are cancellations. Bookings for next year's spectacular, from 12 November to 23 December, are taken in writing from 5 January.

The museum collection is open from noon until 5pm from Good Friday to 25 October, with live musical shows daily from the mechanical organs and the Wurlitzer. **Admission:** This year's ticket price for the show is £12.50, or £11.25 for the party rate. Next year it will be £13, or £11.75 per person for groups of 15 or more. Under-eights are not admitted. Admission to the museum collection is £4.50 for adults, £4.20 for senior citizens, £3.75 party rate and students. £2 for children four to 14, and under-fours free.

**Access:** Accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs everywhere.

**Toilets and baby-changing:** Clean, several of them, but quite crowded at times. Baby-changing facilities in the toilet for the disabled.

**Shops:** Three, well-stocked with good quality gifts and locally-made items, but, again, quite crowded at times.

**Catering:** Several different options, including ice-cream parlour, café and tea-room. A picnic area outside, near the adventure playground.

**Education:** School trips available, helping with modern history and steam.



## THE INDEPENDENT

### Log Effect Bird Box

- just £8.95 inc p&p

These superb log effect bird boxes are actually made from industrial fibre glass and made to look exactly like the real thing. Made to stand up to the harshest winters and the hottest of summers, they are supported by a ten year manufacturers guarantee. Great care has been taken to make sure that the bird boxes are as authentic as possible, even to the point of making a wooden entrance piece, just so that it can be reshaped by the occupants, as it would be normally in the wild.

Safe from weasels, magpies, rats, squirrels and cats, the bird box will soon attract nuthatches, blue tits, pied flycatchers, coal tits, blue tits, redstarts etc.

Supplied with full fitting instructions, this super bird box makes a lovely gift for the avid bird watcher. It costs just £8.95 inc p&p.

**HOW TO ORDER**

Fill in the coupon and send together with cheque or postal order. NO CASH please to -

**THE INDEPENDENT BIRD BOX OFFER**  
PO Box 5608, Birmingham B74 4DR

For Access/Visa orders, please phone  
**0121 323 4481**

Please quote 'INC861' when ordering. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. Return within 7 days for refund if not completely satisfied. Offer subject to availability.

Send to: THE INDEPENDENT BIRD BOX OFFER, PO Box 5608, Birmingham, B74 4DR.

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future offers from Newspaper Publishing Plc. ☐ (NBP)

Not in England: 01607 700000 Newspaper Publishing Plc. Reg. Office: 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3UL.

## Win a photographic assignment and £1,000 of Nikon equipment

A picture could be worth a thousand pounds - but only if you're quick about it. Each Saturday, our travel pages carry thousands of words designed to inform and inspire the traveller, whether of the armchair or adventurer variety. We also use a few good photographs. Our belief that there are many other excellent amateur photographers out there was confirmed last year, when *The Independent* joined forces with *Wanderlust* magazine to stage our first Travel Photograph of the Year competition. The quality of the entries was outstanding.

So this year, we have expanded the competition to four categories: the Natural World, Action, Face-to-Face and Black & White. We have also brought in one of the most famous names in photography - Nikon, the camera of choice for many of the 1996 entrants.

The top 40 entries will be displayed at Destinations '98, the travel exhibition to be held at London's Olympia

from 26 February to 1 March next year.

The winner will earn a package of valuable prizes, including one that money can't buy: a photographic commission from *The Independent*.

Nikon will provide the winner with an F70 SLR with 24-120mm AF-D lens - worth more than £1,000 - while Bellingham will provide a 335 camera bag and Ventile photo vest (total value £300 plus).

The three winners of the other categories will each receive a Nikon F50 with 35-80mm lens, plus a Bellingham Photo Hadley bag.


You can enter at any time before the end of the year, but take the first step now by writing in for an application form, which includes the competition rules.

The address is *Wanderlust* (Photo of the Year), PO Box 1832, Windsor SL4 6YP. Alternatively, you can complete the form in the new edition of the magazine, which went on sale this week, price £2.80.

DON'T MISS TOMORROW'S...

## INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

# TRAVEL



### A WINTER BREAK IN IRAQ

Jeremy Atiyah visits ancient Mesopotamia

**Plus:** How to take your children skiing and still have a great time

YOUR PRACTICAL GUIDE TO HOLIDAYS

1500



TEL: 0171 293 2222

TO RESPOND TO ANY  
Voice personals ADVERTISEMENT, CALL:  
**0891 862 117**  
AND FOLLOW THE EASY INSTRUCTIONS.  
24 HOURS A DAY!  
(Calls cost 50p per minute at all times)

# THE INDEPENDENT Voice personals

TO PLACE YOUR FREE  
Voice personals ADVERTISEMENT, CALL:  
**0800 216 318**  
24 HOURS A DAY! FOR LIVE ASSISTANCE FROM  
A VOICE PERSONALS REPRESENTATIVE,  
CALL MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-8PM.

## WOMEN SEEKING MEN

**CANDIDLY**  
Attractive, blonde, 37,  
for romantic times. West  
Midlands. 224185

**DRAGON SLAYER**  
Mid-30s lady, T.O.S.H.K.  
in S.A. (only those who under-  
stand need reply). 30-45, for  
general sweeping of her life.  
London/Gloucester. 224186

**COMMITTED CHRISTIAN**  
Single female, 32, seeks like-  
minded male, 30-38, with faith  
and values. S. Coast. 224187

**SEEKING MR RIGHT**  
Fun-loving, witty, honest, loyal,  
trustworthy, affectionate, fun,  
black female, 27, GSOH, seeking  
the same in a tall, appealing,  
French male, 24-36, NS, for  
friendship, first possible  
romance. 224188

**FULL OF LIFE**  
Yet she's not tall, these, attractive,  
intelligent, energetic, enjoys  
travel, theatre, books, and  
weekends. Professional male, 49-58,  
to share and share. London/East.  
224189

**A WINTER ROMANCE...**  
...in Spain? Warm, tall, fair,  
44, long blonde graduate,  
54, loves people, loves to travel,  
into personal growth,  
seeks caring male, to share  
life's excitement. Reading/  
Bristol. 224190

**THINKING PARTNER**  
Creative, well-educated,  
professional female, loves music,  
poetry and theatre, seeks com-  
patible, articulate male, 49+, to  
share affection. East/Bristol  
area. 224191

**NAIVELY HOPEFUL**  
Slightly bohemian, ex-bus-  
nesswoman, 55, now relaxed,  
seeks serious, caring, lov-  
ing companion to match her  
adventurous, free-spirited  
personality. Loves travelling,  
music, reading, eating out, plus  
usual interests. Southern  
England. 224192

**ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS**  
58 on top of life but not over  
the hill (yet), haven't stopped  
since the 60s. Independent,  
well-travelled, petite, blonde  
culture vulture, blonde  
same ilk (not ill). GSOH.  
London area. 224193

**DAY OF THE FIRST**  
Romantic, fun-loving, profes-  
sional female, 30, GSOH,  
with variety bag of interests,  
decorating, jazz music, and  
professional, similar male,  
under 40, great personality,  
for friendship possible.  
London only. 224194

**PHYSICS CRACKERS**  
Female, 33, with questions still  
to answer, once into physics,  
now into metaphysics, with a  
love of mountain climbing, sea  
and exploring, seeks male,  
to join in the fun. London.  
224195

**SOMERSET AREA**  
Attractive female, early 40s,  
canter, teenage son, lives  
off the beaten track, holiday  
senses walks, food, wine,  
good conversation, seeking  
male, 38-48, GSOH, enjoys  
the above with. 224196

**1982**  
**CHRISTMAS CRACKERS**  
Luxuriously decorated, con-  
sidering quality gifts, original  
ideas, but not just for  
Christmas, by dynamic, tal-  
ent, professional, with integrity  
and charisma. Northamptonshire  
area. 224197

**SOMEONE SPECIAL**  
Attractive, intelligent, profes-  
sional, blonde female, 40s,  
5'10", with a warm heart, enjoys  
cultural activities, seeks, food &  
wine, interesting conversation,  
seeks sincere, fun, professional  
male, 35-45, for friendship/love.  
London area. 224198

**SOUTH COAST LADY**  
Genuine female, 40-something,  
seeks loving, caring male, sim-  
ilar age, for lasting friendship.  
224199

**ASIAN CRICKET FANATIC**  
Fairly lively, serious, but  
relaxed lady, 48, 5'7", pink  
SOH, likes gardening, theatre  
trips, comedy/drama, rock/  
classical music, musical  
chickadee, seeks professional  
supporter, seeks professional  
male, 45-55, for friendship/love.  
London area. 224200

**CAREER AND CUDLY**  
Female, 40s, into everything,  
seeks educated male, 30s/50s,  
with GSOH, for caring friend-  
ship. East Angles. 224201

## FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Lively, outgoing, professional  
female, enjoys travel, horse rid-  
ing, skiing, cinema, conver-  
sation, literature, seeks attractive,  
silly male, 45-55, for Christmas  
romance. Devon/Plymouth  
based. 224202

**RAVISHING BLONDE**  
Attractive female, 34, seeks  
attractive, intelligent male, to  
share cozy nights in and  
possibly abroad. Cambridge.  
224203

**ATTRACTIVE**  
Educated, single, with GSOH,  
would like to meet handsome,  
professional male, 33-43, 6',  
articulate, for friendship/love.  
London/Hove/Cottingham.  
224204

**MAGINE**  
Very stylish, slim, professional,  
intelligent, affectionate, fun,  
attractive, blonde female, 5'6",  
wavy hair, enjoys occa-  
sional, seeks tall, handsome,  
sporty, professional, intelligent  
male, GSOH, for friendship/  
relationship. Midlands. 224205

**SUSSEX LADY**  
Slim, attractive, educated,  
widow, 40s, warm personality,  
own home, enjoys visiting  
clubs, books, classical music, the  
arts, seeks tall, handsome,  
academic/professional gentle-  
man, for caring relationship. 224206

**NEW BEGINNINGS**  
Creative, proud, witty, wise,  
38, dark, blonde female, late  
40s, varied interests, eclectic  
tastes, seeks tall man, as best  
friend, intelligent, humorous,  
emotional availability essential.  
224207

**EXTRAORDINARY LADY**  
Agricultural, professional busi-  
nesswoman, 30 and still single,  
loves to travel, seeks tall, single  
male, for best mate in the Peak,  
District and cozy nights in a  
cottage by the fire. Call me now!  
224208

**NEED A FUTURE?**  
Elegant, tall, slim, warm, at-  
tentional, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share books, classical  
music, country weekends and  
current events. London area.  
224209

**FRIENDSHIP FIRST**  
Lively, outgoing, professional  
female, enjoys travel, horse rid-  
ing, skiing, cinema, conver-  
sation, literature, seeks attractive,  
silly male, 45-55, for Christmas  
romance. Devon/Plymouth  
based. 224210

**GOOD-LOOKING**  
South West, good-looking,  
quiet, fun, creative and solvent,  
single man, 38, seeks male  
companion, 35-45, for com-  
panionship. 224211

**TILL THE END OF TIME**  
Fair, slim, individualistic, cre-  
ative, compassionate, single  
female, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share life's joys  
and sorrows. 224212

**REDHEAD SEEKING LOVE**  
Redhead female, seeks profes-  
sional, creative, intelligent  
male, 30-40, to explore all that  
life and London has to offer.  
224213

**LIVELY AND ADVENTUROUS**  
Single female, 45, enjoys travel,  
reading, music, and the arts,  
Christian male, 45-55, who  
enjoys life, for a lasting relation-  
ship. Genuine calls only. 224214

**BRIGHT AND LIVELY**  
You will be 45-52, graduate,  
man of reason, sophisticated in  
some ways, lively, active  
personality, 30-40, to explore all  
that life and London has to offer.  
224215

**LITTLE END OF TIME**  
Are you 60+, tall, slim, fun-  
loving, independent, solvent, NS,  
40-50? Then this tall female,  
33, 5'11", would like to hear from  
you. 224216

**MAID ME LAUGH**  
Continental, independent lady,  
53, GSOH, enjoys art, music,  
reading, cooking, walking,  
and travelling, seeks warm,  
friendly, professional male, 50-60,  
for friendship, possible relation-  
ship. London. 224217

**ARTIST'S PALATE**  
NEEDS SOUL MATE  
Slim, dark-haired painter, 50,  
seeks tall, single male, 50-60,  
with artistic interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224218

**LOYAL AND CARING**  
Female, no fear, slim, vegetari-  
an, solvent, enjoys keep fit,  
walking, socialising, seeks  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224219

**CLASSICAL OFFER**  
Honest, outgoing female, NS,  
enjoys reading the class-  
ical, modern, classical music,  
seeks male, 50s-60s, NS, with  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224220

**LIVELY LADY**  
Pete, independent, honest,  
good-looking, 40s, seeks tall,  
40s, to keep her in order. S  
Midlands. 224221

**YOUNG, FREE AND SINGLE**  
Unfeminine! Very attractive,  
slim, professional female, 20,  
4'10", enjoys travelling, books,  
clubs, wine bars, restau-  
rants, seeks good-looking,  
romantic male, 22-28, GSOH,  
for long-term relationship.  
London area. 224222

**HOW ABOUT IT?**  
Happy, lady like, with men-  
tal prowess, seeks gorgeous  
gentleman, 22-30, for wood-  
land romance. Nottingham area.  
224223

**NO MORE LONELY NIGHTS**  
Happy, fun-loving female, 40s,  
seeks someone to care,  
share and laugh with. Are you  
the one for me? 224224

**TOP OF THE WORLD**  
Tall, fit, intelligent, attractive  
lady, 40s, 5'10", passionate  
about animal rights and life,  
black, white, intelligent,  
creative, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, for life. 224225

**NEED A FUTURE?**  
Elegant, tall, slim, warm, at-  
tentional, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share books, classical  
music, country weekends and  
current events. London area.  
224226

**FRIENDSHIP FIRST**  
Lively, outgoing, professional  
female, enjoys travel, horse rid-  
ing, skiing, cinema, conver-  
sation, literature, seeks attractive,  
silly male, 45-55, for Christmas  
romance. Devon/Plymouth  
based. 224227

**GOOD-LOOKING**  
South West, good-looking,  
quiet, fun, creative and solvent,  
single man, 38, seeks male  
companion, 35-45, for com-  
panionship. 224228

**TILL THE END OF TIME**  
Fair, slim, individualistic, cre-  
ative, compassionate, single  
female, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share life's joys  
and sorrows. 224229

**REDHEAD SEEKING LOVE**  
Redhead female, seeks profes-  
sional, creative, intelligent  
male, 30-40, to explore all that  
life and London has to offer.  
224230

**LIVELY AND ADVENTUROUS**  
Single female, 45, enjoys travel,  
reading, music, and the arts,  
Christian male, 45-55, who  
enjoys life, for a lasting relation-  
ship. Genuine calls only. 224231

**BRIGHT AND LIVELY**  
You will be 45-52, graduate,  
man of reason, sophisticated in  
some ways, lively, active  
personality, 30-40, to explore all  
that life and London has to offer.  
224232

**LITTLE END OF TIME**  
Are you 60+, tall, slim, fun-  
loving, independent, solvent, NS,  
40-50? Then this tall female,  
33, 5'11", would like to hear from  
you. 224233

**MAID ME LAUGH**  
Continental, independent lady,  
53, GSOH, enjoys art, music,  
reading, cooking, walking,  
and travelling, seeks warm,  
friendly, professional male, 50-60,  
for friendship, possible relation-  
ship. London. 224234

**ARTIST'S PALATE**  
NEEDS SOUL MATE  
Slim, dark-haired painter, 50,  
seeks tall, single male, 50-60,  
with artistic interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224235

**LOYAL AND CARING**  
Female, no fear, slim, vegetari-  
an, solvent, enjoys keep fit,  
walking, socialising, seeks  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224236

**CLASSICAL OFFER**  
Honest, outgoing female, NS,  
enjoys reading the class-  
ical, modern, classical music,  
seeks male, 50s-60s, NS, with  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224237

**LIVELY LADY**  
Pete, independent, honest,  
good-looking, 40s, seeks tall,  
40s, to keep her in order. S  
Midlands. 224238

**YOUNG, FREE AND SINGLE**  
Unfeminine! Very attractive,  
slim, professional female, 20,  
4'10", enjoys travelling, books,  
clubs, wine bars, restau-  
rants, seeks good-looking,  
romantic male, 22-28, GSOH,  
for long-term relationship.  
London area. 224239

**HOW ABOUT IT?**  
Happy, lady like, with men-  
tal prowess, seeks gorgeous  
gentleman, 22-30, for wood-  
land romance. Nottingham area.  
224240

**NO MORE LONELY NIGHTS**  
Happy, fun-loving female, 40s,  
seeks someone to care,  
share and laugh with. Are you  
the one for me? 224241

**TOP OF THE WORLD**  
Tall, fit, intelligent, attractive  
lady, 40s, 5'10", passionate  
about animal rights and life,  
black, white, intelligent,  
creative, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, for life. 224242

**NEED A FUTURE?**  
Elegant, tall, slim, warm, at-  
tentional, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share books, classical  
music, country weekends and  
current events. London area.  
224243

## MALE ME LAUGH

Continental, independent lady,  
53, GSOH, enjoys art, music,  
reading, cooking, walking,  
and travelling, seeks warm,  
friendly, professional male, 50-60,  
for friendship, possible relation-  
ship. London. 224244

**ARTIST'S PALATE**  
NEEDS SOUL MATE  
Slim, dark-haired painter, 50,  
seeks tall, single male, 50-60,  
with artistic interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224245

**LOYAL AND CARING**  
Female, no fear, slim, vegetari-  
an, solvent, enjoys keep fit,  
walking, socialising, seeks  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224246

**CLASSICAL OFFER**  
Honest, outgoing female, NS,  
enjoys reading the class-  
ical, modern, classical music,  
seeks male, 50s-60s, NS, with  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224247

**LIVELY LADY**  
Pete, independent, honest,  
good-looking, 40s, seeks tall,  
40s, to keep her in order. S  
Midlands. 224248

**YOUNG, FREE AND SINGLE**  
Unfeminine! Very attractive,  
slim, professional female, 20,  
4'10", enjoys travelling, books,  
clubs, wine bars, restau-  
rants, seeks good-looking,  
romantic male, 22-28, GSOH,  
for long-term relationship.  
London area. 224249

**HOW ABOUT IT?**  
Happy, lady like, with men-  
tal prowess, seeks gorgeous  
gentleman, 22-30, for wood-  
land romance. Nottingham area.  
224250

**NO MORE LONELY NIGHTS**  
Happy, fun-loving female, 40s,  
seeks someone to care,  
share and laugh with. Are you  
the one for me? 224251

**TOP OF THE WORLD**  
Tall, fit, intelligent, attractive  
lady, 40s, 5'10", passionate  
about animal rights and life,  
black, white, intelligent,  
creative, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, for life. 224252

**NEED A FUTURE?**  
Elegant, tall, slim, warm, at-  
tentional, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share books, classical  
music, country weekends and  
current events. London area.  
224253

**FRIENDSHIP FIRST**  
Lively, outgoing, professional  
female, enjoys travel, horse rid-  
ing, skiing, cinema, conver-  
sation, literature, seeks attractive,  
silly male, 45-55, for Christmas  
romance. Devon/Plymouth  
based. 224254

**GOOD-LOOKING**  
South West, good-looking,  
quiet, fun, creative and solvent,  
single man, 38, seeks male  
companion, 35-45, for com-  
panionship. 224255

**TILL THE END OF TIME**  
Fair, slim, individualistic, cre-  
ative, compassionate, single  
female, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share life's joys  
and sorrows. 224256

**REDHEAD SEEKING LOVE**  
Redhead female, seeks profes-  
sional, creative, intelligent  
male, 30-40, to explore all that  
life and London has to offer.  
224257

**LIVELY AND ADVENTUROUS**  
Single female, 45, enjoys travel,  
reading, music, and the arts,  
Christian male, 45-55, who  
enjoys life, for a lasting relation-  
ship. Genuine calls only. 224258

**BRIGHT AND LIVELY**  
You will be 45-52, graduate,  
man of reason, sophisticated in  
some ways, lively, active  
personality, 30-40, to explore all  
that life and London has to offer.  
224259

**LITTLE END OF TIME**  
Are you 60+, tall, slim, fun-  
loving, independent, solvent, NS,  
40-50? Then this tall female,  
33, 5'11", would like to hear from  
you. 224260

**MAID ME LAUGH**  
Continental, independent lady,  
53, GSOH, enjoys art, music,  
reading, cooking, walking,  
and travelling, seeks warm,  
friendly, professional male, 50-60,  
for friendship, possible relation-  
ship. London. 224261

**ARTIST'S PALATE**  
NEEDS SOUL MATE  
Slim, dark-haired painter, 50,  
seeks tall, single male, 50-60,  
with artistic interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224262

**LOYAL AND CARING**  
Female, no fear, slim, vegetari-  
an, solvent, enjoys keep fit,  
walking, socialising, seeks  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224263

**CLASSICAL OFFER**  
Honest, outgoing female, NS,  
enjoys reading the class-  
ical, modern, classical music,  
seeks male, 50s-60s, NS, with  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224264

**LIVELY LADY**  
Pete, independent, honest,  
good-looking, 40s, seeks tall,  
40s, to keep her in order. S  
Midlands. 224265

**YOUNG, FREE AND SINGLE**  
Unfeminine! Very attractive,  
slim, professional female, 20,  
4'10", enjoys travelling, books,  
clubs, wine bars, restau-  
rants, seeks good-looking,  
romantic male, 22-28, GSOH,  
for long-term relationship.  
London area. 224266

**HOW ABOUT IT?**  
Happy, lady like, with men-  
tal prowess, seeks gorgeous  
gentleman, 22-30, for wood-  
land romance. Nottingham area.  
224267

**NO MORE LONELY NIGHTS**  
Happy, fun-loving female, 40s,  
seeks someone to care,  
share and laugh with. Are you  
the one for me? 224268

**TOP OF THE WORLD**  
Tall, fit, intelligent, attractive  
lady, 40s, 5'10", passionate  
about animal rights and life,  
black, white, intelligent,  
creative, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, for life. 224269

**NEED A FUTURE?**  
Elegant, tall, slim, warm, at-  
tentional, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share books, classical  
music, country weekends and  
current events. London area.  
224270

**FRIENDSHIP FIRST**  
Lively, outgoing, professional  
female, enjoys travel, horse rid-  
ing, skiing, cinema, conver-  
sation, literature, seeks attractive,  
silly male, 45-55, for Christmas  
romance. Devon/Plymouth  
based. 224271

**GOOD-LOOKING**  
South West, good-looking,  
quiet, fun, creative and solvent,  
single man, 38, seeks male  
companion, 35-45, for com-  
panionship. 224272

**TILL THE END OF TIME**  
Fair, slim, individualistic, cre-  
ative, compassionate, single  
female, 40s, seeks tall, single  
male, 40s, to share life's joys  
and sorrows. 224273

**REDHEAD SEEKING LOVE**  
Redhead female, seeks profes-  
sional, creative, intelligent  
male, 30-40, to explore all that  
life and London has to offer.  
224274

**LIVELY AND ADVENTUROUS**  
Single female, 45, enjoys travel,  
reading, music, and the arts,  
Christian male, 45-55, who  
enjoys life, for a lasting relation-  
ship. Genuine calls only. 224275

**BRIGHT AND LIVELY**  
You will be 45-52, graduate,  
man of reason, sophisticated in  
some ways, lively, active  
personality, 30-40, to explore all  
that life and London has to offer.  
224276

**LITTLE END OF TIME**  
Are you 60+, tall, slim, fun-  
loving, independent, solvent, NS,  
40-50? Then this tall female,  
33, 5'11", would like to hear from  
you. 224277

**MAID ME LAUGH**  
Continental, independent lady,  
53, GSOH, enjoys art, music,  
reading, cooking, walking,  
and travelling, seeks warm,  
friendly, professional male, 50-60,  
for friendship, possible relation-  
ship. London. 224278

**ARTIST'S PALATE**  
NEEDS SOUL MATE  
Slim, dark-haired painter, 50,  
seeks tall, single male, 50-60,  
with artistic interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224279

**LOYAL AND CARING**  
Female, no fear, slim, vegetari-  
an, solvent, enjoys keep fit,  
walking, socialising, seeks  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224280

**CLASSICAL OFFER**  
Honest, outgoing female, NS,  
enjoys reading the class-  
ical, modern, classical music,  
seeks male, 50s-60s, NS, with  
similar interests, for com-  
panionship. London/Herts area.  
224281

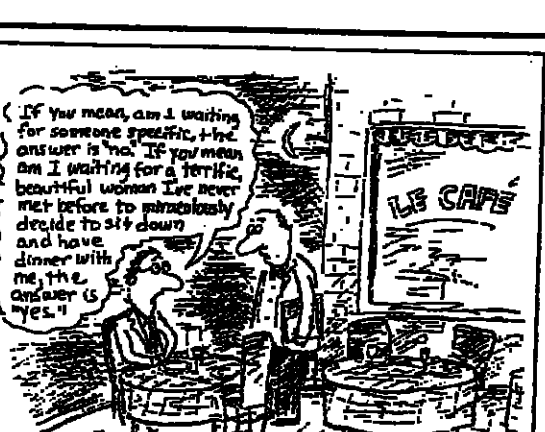
**LIVELY LADY**  
Pete, independent, honest,  
good-looking, 40s, seeks tall,  
40s, to keep her in order. S  
Midlands. 224282

**YOUNG, FREE AND SINGLE**  
Unfeminine! Very attractive,  
slim, professional female, 20,  
4'10", enjoys travelling, books,  
clubs, wine bars, restau-  
rants, seeks good-looking,  
romantic male, 22-28, GSOH,  
for long-term relationship.  
London area. 224283

**HOW ABOUT IT?**  
Happy, lady like, with men-  
tal prowess, seeks gorgeous  
gentleman, 22-30, for wood-  
land romance. Nottingham area.  
224284

**NO MORE LONELY NIGHTS**  
Happy, fun-loving female, 40s,  
seeks someone to care,  
share and laugh with. Are you  
the one for me? 224285

Another  
good reason  
to try the  
Personals?



To place your own FREE personal ad, call  
**0800 216 318**  
EVEN THE CALL IS FREE

For FREE live assistance from a Voice Personals representative call Monday-Friday 9am-8pm.

THE INDEPENDENT  
Voice personals

Voice Personals appears in The Independent each Saturday and in The Independent on Sunday

Both the advert and the call to place the advertisement are free, however advertisers are billed at 50p per minute for message retrieval.

If you respond to an advertiser who has not recorded a voice greeting, you will call have the opportunity to leave a message.

The advertiser is strongly encouraged to record a voice greeting prior to publication.

Any queries?



discounts - up to  
- but also our  
encourages our  
vertisements closely.  
book your space ...

call the

**Christmas Gift  
Guide Team**

71 293 2323  
71 293 2344

**Trench  
the hea**



## WORKSHOP

### Trench warfare in the heart of Essex

How do you make a feature out of a ditch? In her regular advice column Anna Pavord comes to the rescue of the Cooper family.

We moved to this much smaller house 18 months ago, simply to gain a bigger garden. The garden is a strange shape, not very long, but extremely wide. Our longest boundary is a ditch about 4ft deep. You could call it a stream if you felt ambitious. I have strong ideas for most of the garden, but the ditch stumps me. At the moment the banks are covered in about 80 per cent nettles. The other side of the ditch is open farmland, with several mature trees.

I have considered a fairly wild and natural look (minus the nettles), but I also like the thought of large-leaved plants such as gunnera and castor oil plants making a tunnel for the children to explore. My main concern is that the ditch dries up in the summer, and I have no idea what plants, if any, will stand being very wet all winter and dry all summer. I also feel that I may have to work in a small area at a time, replanting as soon as I have got rid of the nettles. In some places, where I have tried spraying off the nettles with glyphosate and digging them up, the stream banks have eroded. Can you give us some advice?

Eve Cooper, aged 36, moved last year with her husband, Paul, and their three boys to a brick-built cottage, the middle one of a terrace of three overlooking farmland in the flat, rich countryside near Saffron Walden in Essex. Their garden spreads wide behind all three cottages, bounded by the problematical ditch. There are about 63 yards of it, curving round the boundary. Ditches are made for a reason, and any planting would have to take account of the fact that the area might be submerged. My feeling, though, looking at the amount of leaf litter that had accumulated along the bottom of this ditch, was that it was much drier now than it had been in the years after it was made, at least a century ago.

Because the ditch represented the buffer zone between garden and land-

scape, the planting needed to be sympathetic to both – a kind of transition zone. It was impractical to garden the whole 63 yards intensively, but the area naturally fell into three different territories.

About halfway along the boundary, where it faced the back of the cottage, Ms Cooper had made a long flowerbed butting on to the ditch's top edge. The ditch behind could make a backdrop for the bed, filled with gardenesque plants such as gunners, rhubarb with tall spires of rhubarb flowers, purplish-leaved eupatorium, filipendula, staggery-flowered inula, and ligularia. A powerful physique is what she should look for in her "ditch" plants, heavyweights that she can leave to slug it out for 10 rounds against resurgent nettles and other undergrowth.

The sections either side of this central zone could be wilder in style, planted with alder, elder, willow, dogwood and other plants to echo the mood set by the few remnants of native trees and shrubs. A willow and a big field maple grow there, both pollarded, and blackthorn, wild cherry and sycamore.

On the left-hand side of the central area, where the ditch curves past the Coopers' newly planted orchard, I would thicken up the boundary on the far side of the ditch with trees such as the cut-leaf alder, *Alnus incana* 'Laciniata'. This survives manfully in areas that are both cold and wet. As the ditch follows the east boundary of the garden, more cover and shelter would be welcome in winter. The cut-leaf alder, with foliage deeply divided into toothed lobes, would meld imperceptibly with the true natives, but at the same time would have half its heart in the garden it faced.

More willows would work well along the far boundary, too, as much for the cheering sight of their winter twigs as their elegant summer foliage. I'd continue to pollard them, once they were big enough to take it. It is a traditional technique, and the bark on the new growth produced as a result of the cutting back has a much brighter colour than old wood. *Salix alba* 'Britzensis' is one of the best, with orange stems glowing deeper and richer as winter days get colder and bleaker.

But how are the plants to be got into the ground, given the present thick blanket of nettle? And where exactly should they be planted? Not at the very bottom of the ditch. That should be left clear, for winter water (if it comes) and for Jo (11), Ben (eight) and Charlie (two) to take over if they want, in summer. One of the reasons the Coopers decided last year to move their family from their tidy house in Cambridge was to give them the kind of wild, free, country childhood that Eve Cooper had herself.

City-born Paul Cooper is not into gardening, but he had the inspirational idea of giving eight hours' worth of a man with a spade to his wife as a birthday present. The best present she's ever had, says Eve Cooper. She's the greatest digaholic I've ever encountered, and had already dug by hand the entire area where the fruit trees (another birthday present) are now planted.

But digging is not the answer in the steep-sided terrain of the ditch. On the far side, strimming round the existing trees would reveal enough of the life of the land to plant alders and willows. If the Coopers planted standard trees, on 4-ft stems, their heads (trees, not Coopers) would already be above the danger zone.

On the nearside bank, the weedkiller glyphosate will eventually control the nettles, but the bank will erode if Eve Cooper then tries to pull out the roots. Easier to leave them be, dig out planting holes where they are needed and mulch the rest of the area with grass cuttings, or fairly coarse woodchip mulch, that won't slide immediately down the bank.

She's right in thinking she should tackle one patch at a time. This is how I gradually brought the bank in my garden under control, although it took me 12 years. The

weeds need to be properly killed before you plant and I found that not digging was the key. If you dig, you bring a whole new seed-bank of weed to the surface. You also destabilise the soil. If the areas either side of the central area were treated as "wild" areas, then plantings of shrubs such as dogwoods, fancy-leaved elders and shrubby willows would be entirely appropriate.

It will probably take the whole of next year to get on top of the nettles but by this time next year, Ms Cooper could be planting dogwoods such as *Cornus alba* 'Elegantissima', the lovely, purplish-brown-stemmed shrubby willow *Salix hastata* 'Wehrhahnii' and the elegant elder *Sambucus nigra laciniata*. The willow has wonderful woolly white catkins; the elder has the wide, white flowerheads of the hedgerow elder, but leaves 100 times more handsome. While these areas are get-

ting established, Ms Cooper can be using lists of plants for the grand plan area which should be lush, jung composed mainly of plants with leaves. The biggest plants, such as gun should be planted towards the bottom of the ditch; smaller ones, such as hosta, rodgersias, towards the top.

A trip to the canal garden at Beth to's home would give her an idea of it is possible: huge-leaved hostas, rods with leaves like enormous horse ches big, tough clumps of day lilies, *Hemer flag iris* and cabbagey clumps of the flowered *Senecio smithii*. Perhaps Cooper might arrange a visit for his next birthday present.

Beth Chatto Gardens, Elmstead Rd, Colchester, Essex: open in winter, M 9am-4pm, admission £2.50.



Ditch dilemma: the Coopers' garden is bounded by a trench that is wet in winter but dry in summer

Photograph: Andrew Bu

TEL: 0171 293 2222

## CLASSIFIED: INDEPENDENT TRADERS

FAX: 0171 293 250

### For Sales

**A gift from France for a year!**  
Everybody who enjoys speaking French will appreciate a subscription to *Bien-dire*.

A quarterly journal and lively tape full of up-to-date articles on the French language and life-style.  
Key words highlighted with English translation.  
Satisfaction guaranteed.

Special price  
1 year Gift Subscription  
£34.90 FF 4 journals + 4 tapes  
£37.50 FF Journals only  
Inc ppv Europe  
(the rest of world add £34.00 FF)

Fax or mail orders + your gift messages. Payment by cheque or credit card (No + expiry date)  
Fax: +33 (0)4 78 30 87 03  
http://bien-dire.isabell.com  
e-mail: Maud@bien-dire.com

**HATCHBAG BOOTLINER**  
the ORIGINAL solution to dirty boot problems.

An effective way to keep the huge area of your car in top condition. A sturdy hardwearing and waterproof inner lining that is simple to fit, easy to remove and fold away. Tailor-made for over 500 hatchback and estate vehicles. From only £29.95 inc VAT.

**SLIPCOVER SEAT COVERS**  
Top quality waterproof front seat covers made from coated nylon fabric, easy to fit and remove. Available in 3 sizes to fit most vehicles. Also fully tailored sets available for most 4x4 vehicles. From only £29.95 per pair inc VAT.

**24 HOUR BROCHURE HOTLINE**  
0151 639 5396  
UNIT 4 HILLSIDE RD, WEST FLOAT RD, ESTATE 5, SKEPHEAD

**CUTLERY RE-SILVERPLATING SERVICE**  
Will make your worn cutlery as good as new. Single items upwards. Also spoons, trays, dishes, etc. Very reasonable prices. Repairs undertaken. Nationwide service.

Full details from:  
C.R.S. Cutlery Services,  
Walsborough Green,  
Sussex  
RH14 0BN  
or phone  
01403 700424

**FREE 2000 CATALOGUE**  
0700 485 966  
GUY, SCOTLAND  
0700 485 966

To advertise in this section please telephone  
0171 293 2323/2344

### House & Home

especially for **Parker Knoll Minty-Ercol Cintique G-Plan** owners

**TAILORED COVERS**  
These are NOT stretch covers but perfectly fitting tailored covers, cut precisely to the size and shape of each model!

We are also specialists in **RE-UPHOLSTERY** offering a complete restoration service by our highly skilled craftsmen.

**FREE INFORMATION AND BROCHURE** simply call  
0181 680 4750  
24 HOURS

Whether your furniture needs tailored covers for a fresh new look or complete re-upholstery and renovation Lyndon is the only name you need to know.

I am interested in Tailored Covers ☐ Re-upholstery ☐ please fax  
Mailing/Model no. of my furniture \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Send to Lyndon Ltd, Dept. 206, 43 Imperial Way, Croydon CR9 4LP

**Condoms DIRECT**  
07000 472337

**We Make Sofas and Sofa Beds**  
See your Sofas and Chairs being made By Craftsmen and Women  
Choose your Sofa or Chair and Fabric. Leave the rest to us.  
Made to Measure  
Vast choice of fabrics. All leading Brand names, Sandersons, Monkwell, Osborne and Little, Liberty and many others. Open 7 days

Letting, Contract and Interior Designers  
Welcome  
Re-Upholstery  
Curtains and Divan Sets?  
**Certainly!**

We will beat any other price of a comparable quality

Call the **FACTORY SHOP** at Poetsville Ltd.  
Unit 1 Bayford Street, Mare St.,  
Hackney, London E8 3SE (Nr Well St.)  
Tel: 0181 533 0915 2 lines Fax: 0181 985 2953

### Food & Wine

**Fynefish**  
Traditionally smoked on the shores of Loch Fyne

Scottish Smoked Salmon in packs or sliced sides from 8oz to 3lb, £8 to £32. Other Smoked specialities include Hot Smoked Salmon, (Premier Cut) £16, Hot Smoked Trout Fillets £10, Hot Smoked Scallops £12.

P&P included, payments by cheque or credit card. Corporate business enquiries welcome.  
Established over 25 years

**Fynefish Products Ltd,**  
Churchill, Tarbert,  
Argyll PA29 6SX  
Tel: 01880 820439  
Fax: 01880 820551

**PEDOMETERS MAP MEASURERS**  
**COMPASSES & ALTIMETERS**

• Extensive Range  
• Excellent Prices

Our impressive range of 40 Pedometers allow you to choose the right model for your needs. If you Jog, Walk, Run, Cycle or you would just like to know how far you have walked the dog, you can measure the distance travelled. Lightweight and compact.

**Precision Made Instruments**  
guaranteed for reliability and accuracy.

We also have a large selection of Map Measurers, Compasses, Magnifiers, Stop Watches etc. all available at excellent prices.

**FREE COLOUR BROCHURE** despatched by return.

**WRITE FAX OR PHONE FOR**  
The full range in our FREE colour brochure of quality precision instruments

**PEDOMETERS INTERNATIONAL LTD (IN48)**  
12/14 James Watt Close, Drayton Fields,  
Dunstable, Bedfordshire NN1 5RJ  
Tel 01327 706030 Fax 01327 871633

**NOTICE TO READERS**  
Whilst we take reasonable precautions with all advertisements, readers are strongly advised to take professional advice before paying a deposit or entering into any financial commitment.

### Clocks & Watches

**BREITLING**

**0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT**  
£115.56 DEPOSIT

**12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT**  
You can purchase a Breitling Aerospace Minute Repeater (RRP £1,155.00) with our one year interest free credit (0% APR), a deposit of just £115.56 and the balance paid in 12 equal monthly instalments of £86.62.

**QUICK AND EASY FINANCE**  
To buy this distinguished watch simply call us today on 0800 07 20888 and arrange your interest free credit now. Pay by cheque or credit card (positive ID will be required) and receive your watch securely delivered to your door by registered post, subject to availability, within 14 days.

To: Alexander, Dept IN48,  
3 Castle Street, Farnham,  
Surrey GU14 7HR

**ALEXANDERS**  
a fine tradition of family jewellers

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER**  
Full Cash Back - 1 Year Refund Offer  
Own the Aerospace Breitling now and get a full cash refund a year later. This exclusive offer is available with any Breitling watch purchased. Return your watch after a minimum period of 12 months and no longer than 14 months and we will give you ALL YOUR MONEY BACK.

**THIS NEWSPAPER AND YOU**

If you have a complaint about an item in this newspaper which concerns inaccuracy, intrusion, harassment or discrimination, write to the editor about it.

If you're still dissatisfied you can write to the Press Complaints Commission, which is an independent organisation established to uphold an official Code of Practice for the Press.

**THIS NEWSPAPER ARRIVES BY THE PCC'S DECISIONS**

**PC**  
21 AINSWORTH SQUARE, LONDON EC2A 4AE  
Telephone: 021 253 2246 Fax: 021 253 2255  
The press has been accused by the publisher

### Clocks & Watches

**BREITLING**

**0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT**  
£115.56 DEPOSIT

**12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE CREDIT**  
You can purchase a Breitling Aerospace Minute Repeater (RRP £1,155.00) with our one year interest free credit (0% APR), a deposit of just £115.56 and the balance paid in 12 equal monthly instalments of £86.62.

**QUICK AND EASY FINANCE**  
To buy this distinguished watch simply call us today on 0800 07 20888 and arrange your interest free credit now. Pay by cheque or credit card (positive ID will be required) and receive your watch securely delivered to your door by registered post, subject to availability, within 14 days.

To: Alexander, Dept IN48,  
3 Castle Street, Farnham,  
Surrey GU14 7HR

**ALEXANDERS**  
a fine tradition of family jewellers

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER**  
Full Cash Back - 1 Year Refund Offer  
Own the Aerospace Breitling now and get a full cash refund a year later. This exclusive offer is available with any Breitling watch purchased. Return your watch after a minimum period of 12 months and no longer than 14 months and we will give you ALL YOUR MONEY BACK.

**MORIART'S SOLID PINE STORAGE BEDS**  
30% OFF

Custom made any size, table-top, protects your precious table against heat and stains. Can be reversed to use as a dining surface. Delivery 7-10 days. Write or phone for details and more.

**TABLESAFE**  
NEW! INSTANT PROTECTION  
30% OFF

For NEW colour brochure call  
(01235) 850214

# 14/INDOOR

## Crafty ways with silk

furnishings to clothes and wall hangings, silk painting is extremely popular. Sally Staples joins a course to learn how.

are 10 of us sitting around a large farm-kitchen table tucked into a selection of wicker, salads, fruit and home-made cake sitting away like old friends. The scenario that you might expect in a conventional education class. Although the pupils – all on this particular course – have signed up to learn silk painting, they also have the time to relax and make friends in homely surroundings set deep in the Wye valley. We are residential, using all the facilities



the converted old Edwardian coach as though it were home. Others, who call, join the art centre's five-day for just a day or two. Anyone, says tutor sh, can enjoy learning the techniques painting. There is no need to be creative. There is no pressure to and there are plenty of laughs. Myself from Alcester has drawn a design on a silk tie for her son's Christmas. His name she admits coyly is Will. Will somehow it is hard to imagine the novelist wearing a silk tie designed

by Mum. Hilary is used to the open-mouthed reaction when she reveals her son's identity. Then after just the right pause she laughs and admits her Will is not the Will. But she confesses they do have plenty of fun with other people's confusion.

She has set up her tie on a frame and is outlining the design with a "gutta" which is similar to the masking fluid used in watercolour. Because Will has just moved house, she has designed the tie with dozens of tiny houses becoming progressively smaller as the tie narrows. Once the outlining is complete, she can colour them with water-based paint and once dry they are fixed by ironing.

Care worker Rachel Perryman, aged 25, who is between jobs, is working faster than any of the others and she has chosen to tackle a

large rectangular piece of silk which she will turn into a scarf, or possibly a wall hanging. The silk is stretched across a frame to keep it in place and Rachel has outlined a selection of leaves entwined with flowers and butterflies. Now she is having fun with a selection of rich colours, mixing greens and blues and reds and progressing at great speed.

"I did art A-level and my mother has done a bit of silk

painting so I thought I'd have a go. The course is brilliant and Liz gives us some useful tips to create special effects."

One of these is to dampen the silk, paint it with your chosen colours and then sprinkle salt over the pattern while still wet. When the paint has dried the salt can be shaken off and leaves behind a mottled effect.

Brenda Clough, from North Somerset, has chosen to paint an autumn scene on her piece of silk, and the skill with which she produces slender leaves and twirling vines indicates that she is not a beginner. Brenda has worked with

watercolours before and admits this helps with silk painting.

Also on the course is a granddaughter and granny team who have never tried silk painting before. Nine Stanford, 23, a website designer who lives locally, persuaded her granny Dorothy to visit the arts centre and try one of the courses. Dorothy, on holiday from Cheshire, is delighted with what she has achieved in such a short time.

She bought some padded silk spectacle cases from tutor Liz and has painted them with floral scenes. "I'm not much of an artist but I copied some pictures of flowers and I don't think they've come out too badly," she said. Nina has painted a variety of design on silk bowties as Christmas presents and is now working on a large scarf decorated with flowers and leaves. She has cut out the flower shapes, pinned them to the silk and then outlined them with the gutta before choosing what colours to paint them.

Liz emphasises to her students that any mistakes made on the silk are not reasons to panic. "Use your mistakes," she charges her pupils. "You can often turn them into something quite interesting. I use water-based solvent free paints and I bring a selection on the course so that students can buy what they need if they are beginners. There is so much on the market that it does help to get some guidance on the products."

Meanwhile, the informality of the Wye Valley Arts Centre makes it very popular. Director Valerie Welham tells the story of one young student who felt so at home that, feeling a little peckish, he popped down to the kitchen in the early hours of the morning and devoured half the chicken casserole that had been made for the following day's lunch.

A five-day silk-painting course for residential students at the Wye Valley Arts Centre costs £280 which includes full board and tuition fees. For further information on this and other courses contact Valerie Welham at The Old Coach House, Mark, St Briavel's, Lydney, Gloucestershire GL15 6QH (01291 689463 or 01595 530214; website: www.wyart.mcm.com or e-mail: wyart@mcm.com). Liz Nash can offer further advice on silk painting (01794 301217) and also teaches evening classes at Romsey School, Greatbridge, Romsey, Hants (01794 522106).



Special effects: Liz Nash's silk-painting course is creative, fun and sociable Photographs: Christopher Jones

## AMES

### AN O'BIRNE RANELAGH N'T JUNK IT - USE IT

ask, we are going to do some origami to make it easier, we shall not be using those tiresome diagrams that appear-folding so cumbersome. Start with a square of paper with sides of 10 in long. Now, to make the folds easier to follow, mark the sides A, B, C and D (in that order), the midpoints of the sides E, F, G and H (with E on A and B, F between B and C, G on C and D, H on D and A). Find the centre by folding in half and unfolding, first side to side (top to bottom.) Copy the letters he back, in case you lose them. Fold B and D to meet in the centre, O, crease the line AO backwards. Now comes the difficult bit: bring A to C, folding on the crease that you just made to bring H, E and F to C. You should now have a flat

square shape, with a triangle on top. Turn your attention to the corner where A and C meet, and fold the small triangular portion (including the A corner) up inside the pocket above it. A should now be tucked up with B, D and O. Fold up C into the same pocket to lock the previous flap in place. You are now left with a triangular pocket, with a smaller triangle surmounting it. Fold the top triangle not quite all the way into the top pocket, leaving it sticking out by a few millimetres. Turn the paper over, and that's it. Oh, you want to know what it is, do you? Well I'll tell you. What you have made is a neat little bookmark with a tab. Carry it with you at all times, slip it over the corner of the page when you stop reading, and dog-eared books will be a thing of the past.

## CLUEDO

### WILLIAM HARTSTON

It was the chap with the silly name, in the hotel near Windsor, with the 8ft piece of lead piping. Or it might have been the PR chap from Waddingtons, with the mobile phone, in the bar.

Today, at the Oakley Court Hotel near Windsor, Britain's first official Cluedo Convention is taking place to raise money for the charity Children With Leukemia. They began yesterday, with playlets, unusual identification parades and odd challenges as well as normal Cluedo games, all to determine who wins the first prize of a murder mystery trip on the Venice Simplon Orient Express.

Cluedo, for anyone who does not know it, is a board game of logical deduction. It starts with a man, Dr Black,

having been murdered. Cards indicate who killed him, in what room, and with which weapon, are hidden in an envelope. The other cards are distributed among the players who may gain information by asking questions of each other in turn, while moving their pieces, according to dice throws, round a flat-plan of the mansion in which the murder took place.

Invented by Anthony Pratt, a Leeds solicitor's clerk, in 1946, Cluedo has now sold well over 100 million sets around the world. It has also inspired a film and a television series. The present event, however, is the first to offer bonus points to any entrant who shares a name with any of the Cluedo characters. My money's on Colonel Mustard.

## PANDORA MELLY

### GAMES PEOPLE PLAY

James Dyson, 50, inventor and manufacturer of the Dyson bagless vacuum cleaner

I play Monopoly, but without much enjoyment. It's a bit tedious going round the board and acquiring things. More fun when everybody's going bankrupt and you start borrowing money or negotiating properties with people in lieu of rent. When you're doing something with another person, it stops being a matter of luck. I'd like to get straight into that, and forgo throwing the dice and moving round the board.

I think Monopoly is a game you play in your late teens and early twenties, and it always mirrors later life in some way. There are people who haven't looked at the long term. They accumulate, then run out of cash because they haven't bought any buildings, and they land on people who've mortgaged themselves to the hilt to build hotels.

Some people like trains and always buy the stations, but they're just being romantic,

because it's an hotel on the red or yellow squares which will crucify the other players. I've always thought it's a mistake to buy Mayfair and Park Lane because they're frightfully expensive and you've only got two to land on. Whereas if you've blocked off a corner with the red and orange sets, people will land on you every single time.

That's the fun of it for me: getting the strategy right and thinking for the long term. I've always done that, and I'll mortgage myself to the hilt in order to get something valuable. The stations will get you a little money in the short term, but the winners are always the people with the swanky hotels.

In a way, I dread playing. I have to make investments and negotiate with people in my everyday life. In the evenings, the last thing I want is a kind of repetition with Monopoly.

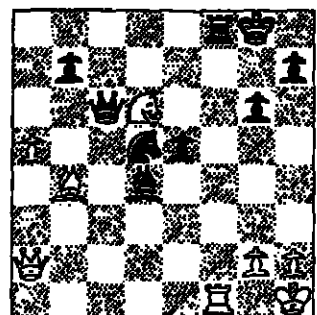
Loose Monopoly money may be swept up with a Dyson bagless vacuum cleaner. Read all about it, and its inventor, in James Dyson's "Against the Odds" (Orion Books, £18.99).

## AMES: WILLIAM HARTSTON

When you tell a human from a computer? Alan Turing proposed a "Turing Test" for intelligence his is clearly on too d a plane to encompass a of people cheating in a simultaneous display. Idea was to have an nenter asking questions respondents, one s, but if the champion's y objective is to win the then discrimination s more difficult. hat was it that made Casparov think that a mpeting against him e Internet in a neous display a couple s ago was using a ter to help select its 'Black's excellent g play – and the e of a computer beside rd (necessary for the t connection) – may en enough to alert ov's suspicions. The ss with which they then

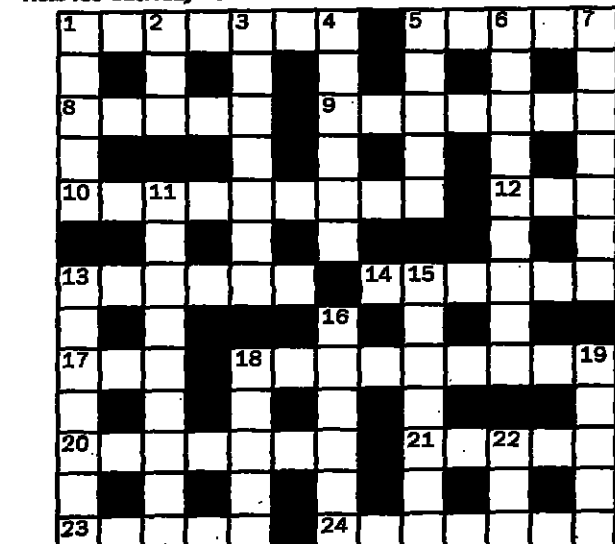
threaded their way through complex tactics seemed to confirm it. Finally, 29...Rf8! was too much for him. After 30.Rxf8+ Kxf8 White has no good discovered check with his knight, because the threat of Qc1+ is hanging over him. So Kasparov refused to continue the game. The captain of the Internet team has strongly denied all charges, pointing out that the players were being watched all the time. I don't know who is right. See what you think:

White: Garry Kasparov  
Black: Internet Chess Club  
1 d4 Nf6 16 Ng5 e3  
2 e4 g6 17 cxd6 cxd6  
3 Nc3 Bg7 18 fxe3 Bb6  
4 e4 d6 19 Rxf8+ Qxf8  
5 Be2 0-0 20 Ne4 Bxe3+  
6 Nb3 e5 21 Kh1 Nf5  
7 0-0 Ne6 22 Ra3 Bd4  
8 d5 Ne7 23 Qd2 Qd8  
9 b4 a5 24 Bg4 Ne7  
10 Ba3 axb4 25 Bxc3 Qxc3  
11 Bxb4 Nd7 26 Nxd6 Qd7  
12 a4 f5 27 Rf3 Nxd5  
13 a5 Nf6 28 Qa2 Qc6  
14 c5 Nxe4 29 Rf1 Rf8  
15 Nxe4 fxe4



## CONCISE CROSSWORD

No.3469 Saturday 29 November



- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                        | <b>DOWN</b>                       |
| 1 With one's king under attack (2,5) | 1 Ancient British tribe (5)       |
| 5 Avoids (5)                         | 2 Vehicle (3)                     |
| 8 Eagle's nest (5)                   | 3 Carry out (7)                   |
| 9 Kenyan port (7)                    | 4 Japanese robe (6)               |
| 10 Infectious disease (9)            | 5 Latin American dance (5)        |
| 12 Bird of prey (3)                  | 6 Plain (9)                       |
| 13 Digs (6)                          | 7 Not deep (7)                    |
| 14 Small fish (6)                    | 11 Lie (9)                        |
| 15 Enemy (3)                         | 13 Shortfall (7)                  |
| 17 Yield (9)                         | 15 Imprecise (7)                  |
| 20 Cuisine (7)                       | 16 Coloured pencil (6)            |
| 21 Front part of stage (5)           | 18 Charm (5)                      |
| 23 Subject to ebbs and flows (5)     | 19 Area for shooting practice (5) |
| 24 Worthy of remark (7)              | 22 Bone (3)                       |

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:  
ACROSS: 11 Harts, 4 Topping (Heartstopping), 8 Lampon, 9 Niece, 10 Inner, 11 Related, 13 Glen, 15 Guinea, 17 Voyage, 20 Syle, 22 Replete, 24 David, 26 Great, 27 Popular, 28 Deserve, 29 Suede. DOWN: 1 Helping, 2 Roman, 3 Scourge, 4 Tenure, 5 Panel, 6 Inertia, 7 Greed, 12 Envy, 14 Lat, 16 Impress, 18 Oedipus, 19 Endorse, 21 Temple, 22 Rigid, 23 Enter, 25 Value.

## BRIDGE: ALAN HIRON

Love all; dealer West	
North	South
♠ Q J 9	♠ K 10 8 7 3
♥ 7 4	♥ A K
♦ A K 10 9 3	♦ Q J 8 6
♣ K 5 4	♣ 9 2
West	East
♠ A 5 2	♠ 6 4
♥ 9 8 6 3 2	♥ Q J 10 5
♦ none	♦ 7 5 4 2
♣ Q J 10 7 3	♣ A 8 6

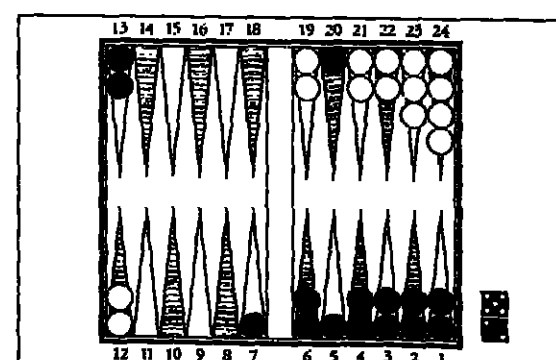
West had a very clear idea as to how the defence should go on this deal, but unfortunately his partner was not on the same wavelength. Could he have made matters easier for East?

After a pass by West, North opened One Diamond, South responded One Spade, and now West came to life with Two Diamonds – a Michaels cue-bid, suggesting length in the unbid suits. North doubled – not because he expected his opponents to play there, but conventionally showing three-card support for spades. East passed, and South's jump to Four Spades ended the auction. (A save in Five Hearts by East-West would have cost only 100 points.) West led ♠ Q against Four Spades and was allowed to hold the trick. He realised that the defenders could come to at most two club tricks and he continued with ♠ 3 to East's ace and awaited a diamond return.

He is still waiting, for East switched to the queen of hearts. East never got in again, and South was soon able to claim.

You might argue that the three of clubs was a clear suit preference signal, but West had a more direct way of clarifying the position. Suppose he switches to ♥ 9 at trick two. This makes it clear that he has nothing of value in the heart suit, and later, when he gets in with the ace of trumps, his second club lead will be sure to attract the right return.

## BACKGAMMON: CHRIS BRAY



This was a difficult decision which faced Wendy Kaplan in the final of the Illinois State Championship. At double match point Wendy – who remains the only woman ever to have won the World Championship – has a 52 to play.

As she is trailing in the race by 62 pips to 90, the running play 20/13 can quickly be discounted. There are three real choices: (a) 13/8, 13/11; (b) 13/8, 7/5; (c) 7/5, 6/1. All three plays have their merits. Play (a) keeps contact without damaging the home board; play (b) constructs a closed home board making any hit by Black a game winner, but leaves White a direct shot; play (c) maintains maximum contact at the cost of a weakening of the home board.

In the game, Wendy made the bold choice of 13/8, 7/5. Her opponent rolled 43 which he played 6/2, 6/3. On her next roll Wendy had to move her remaining man from her mid-point. White then rolled 51, played 13/7. Wendy rolled 62, hitting both blots with 20/18\*12\*, and easily won the game.

Wendy had made a bold play under pressure and reaped her due reward. The ability to play well under extreme pressure is the hallmark of a good player. And what of her choice of move?

Extensive roll-outs show that the best move is play (c), albeit not by much. The key thing for Black in this position is to hit a shot, and she should play the move that optimises her chances of a shot on the next roll. The slight damage to the home board is not as important as generating that possible shot. A good lesson in weighing the importance of different elements of a position.













## Friend of the horses finally hangs up his microphone

Peter O'Sullivan will call the horses home for the last time at Newbury this afternoon, bringing down the curtain on half a century of commentary for the BBC. His contribution to racing has been remarkable.

He may not feel like it as he squeezes into his eyrie above Newbury this afternoon, just four months shy of his 80th birthday, but Peter O'Sullivan is the racing equivalent of Elle MacPherson.

Just as fashion has "the Body", so the turf has "the Voice", and however you choose to measure fame, there are few greater accolades than to lay claim to the definite article. He deserves it, of course. When sports broadcasting was all clipped moustaches and God Save The King, the Voice was there, with its tidings from deep within the fog that was monochrome.

It brought Arkle and Mill House to the masses, called Red Rum home as he won his third National "like a fresh horse", and then Desert Orchid - "he's beginning to get up" - in the Gold Cup 12 years later.

Above all, O'Sullivan was the Saturday background noise for generations of British children. People who have never visited a betting

shop or racecourse in their adult life can still be swept back 20 years by the sound of the Voice changing pitch as the leaders pass the furlong pole.

But it is the sort of celebrity which can work both ways. "I'm only a bloody commentator," he said recently, as he considered the attention which his impending retirement has attracted. In truth, though, commentating has been just a small part of O'Sullivan's life on the turf.

As a punter and an owner, he has fed money into both ends of the machine, and as a journalist he has helped with the servicing and even the occasional major overhaul. For 36 years, until 1986, his column in the *Daily Express* was impeccably informed, thoughtful and a regular source of winners.

He was instrumental in the paper's sponsorship - recently discontinued, much to his disgust - of the Triumph Hurdle, a race won in his colours by Attivo in 1974. His commentary on the closing stages was famously impartial, though shortly afterwards came one of the only recorded instances of an O'Sullivan "error". "Attivo," he said, "owned by... err... Peter O'Sullivan." He sounded almost embarrassed.

This much is in the form book and the archives, not to mention his autobiography, *Calling The*

Horses, but the strand which has linked it all is sometimes overlooked. For O'Sullivan has always been thoroughly biased - he is firmly, irredeemably on the side of the horses.

This was not something that might have been predicted when the asthma which blighted his childhood was wrongly diagnosed by one doctor as an allergy to horses, and by the time his mistake had been realised, O'Sullivan's beloved first pony had been sold.

Not before it had kindled a passion for all things equine, though, and he joined the Press Association's racing desk in 1944. Not long afterwards, he was the race-reader assisting Peter Dimmock, one of the BBC's first commentators, and thanks to Dimmock's generous recommendation - "he is as good as I am bad" - soon permanently behind the microphone which only now is he ready to leave.

Through all that time, O'Sullivan has campaigned to improve the lot of the horses, and in doing so has shown more compassion and vision than racing administrators half his age. When, for example, an American "outsider" called Carrie Humble decided to set up the first (and still the only) centre in Britain to rehabilitate ex-racehorses, O'Sullivan was a crucial ally.

"It would have been very difficult to get as far as we have without his name being behind us, and without him continuing to talk about us," she says. "The first time I spoke to him, I was a little in awe of him, he was the great Voice of Racing, but he just made me want to do the best that I could."

I sometimes say to the people in the yard, 'Remember that Peter O'Sullivan could turn up here tomorrow. I want this place clean'. He's a fine man, and I haven't met very many of those in this world, and I'm a well-travelled lady. He's a man I wouldn't want to let down."

The good news for the horses is that the campaigning will not stop. "Racehorses should be caught," O'Sullivan says, "before they start the downward spiral that ends at very unappealing markets. I think that it's one of the good things about our time that there is a greater feeling of compassion towards animals, a feeling that we are responsible, as so-called superior creatures, for the lesser creatures. Hopefully, we will get an initiative going in time to get official funding for rehabilitation, and that's something I would hope to be involved in."

Abuse of the whip, too, will still nag at him in retirement. "There is no excuse for abuse, and I think there is abuse at times when horses are tired and the money is down. We are slightly accustomed to this business of having a right crack at a horse, but if it appears that

racing people go to extreme lengths to achieve their aims, racing will lose its appeal."

It would be a fitting tribute to the man perched high above the grandstand if the jockeys riding a finish in the Hennessy left their whips unfurled. Wishful thinking, perhaps, but the race itself is still a carefully chosen sign-off.

The best two horses to carry his colours, Attivo and Be Friendly, a fine sprinter in the late 1960s, were both winners at Newbury. It was also the site of a serious falling-out with his employers when, in 1979, the *Grandstand* director cut short the Hennessy coverage to catch the communal singing before a rugby match at Twickenham. It is 32 years, too, since O'Sullivan helped to audition Julian Wilson (not to mention Michael Stoute) for the job of BBC Racing Correspondent, 24 hours before

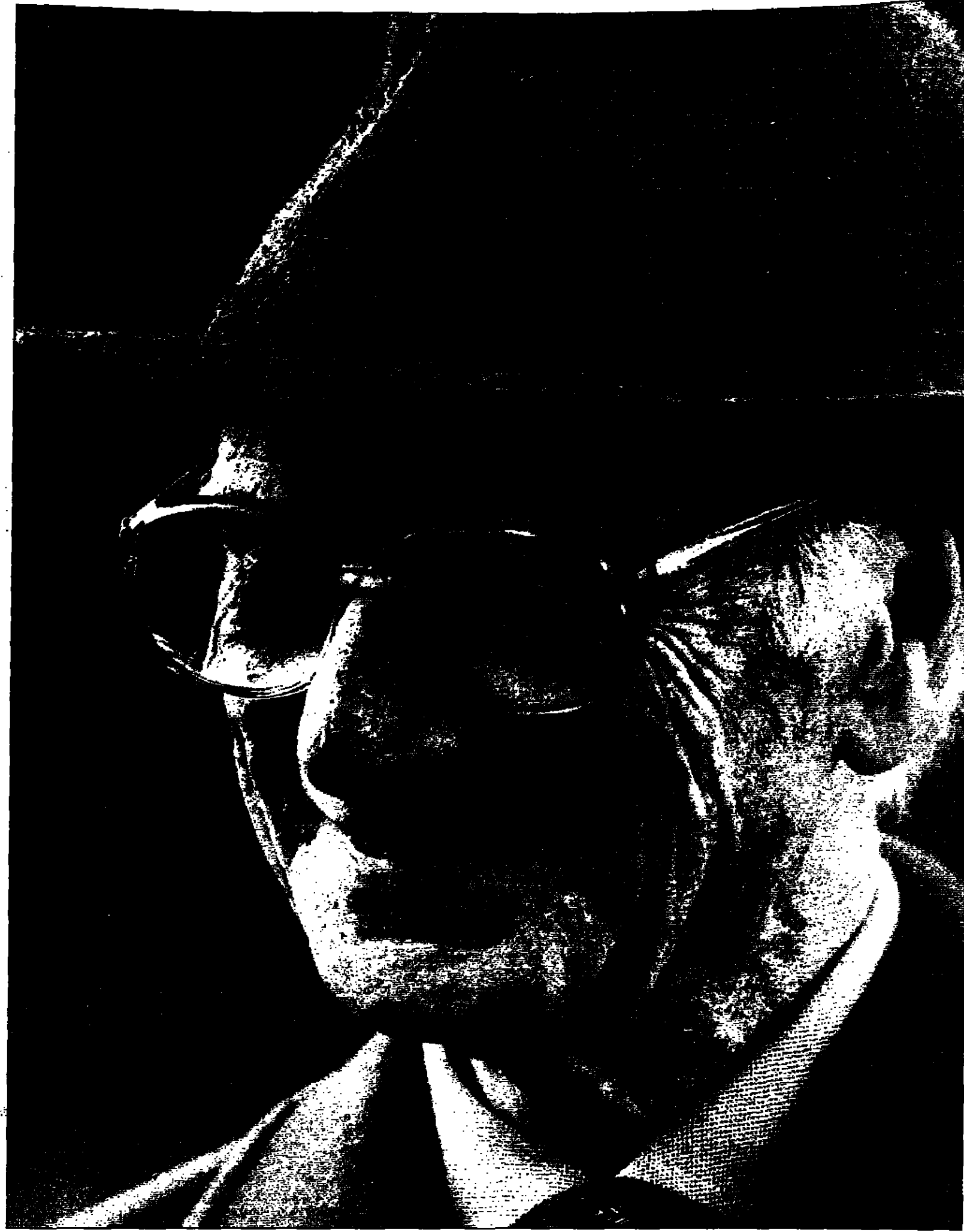
Arkle won the Hennessy, giving 33lb to the runner-up.

"That's why I fancy packing up at Newbury," he says. "Also, it's not far from Chelsea, and there aren't going to be too many runners in the Hennessy, so I shouldn't make too many cock-ups. I've been making mistakes recently, and I was thinking that if I wrote another book, I'd call it 'Miscalling The Horses'."

He should, at least, be spared a repeat of the worst moment of his 50 years as a commentator, the défilé of the 1993 Grand National. "In the Foinavon year [when most of the field fell at the 23rd fence], it was Michael O'Hehir who had to do the difficult job, I had nothing to do except rather uncharitably hope that Foinavon might suffer some very small impediment because I was on Honey End [the runner-up]. But the 1993 race was rather fraught. I

was saying, 'this cannot be a race', but there was always that one per cent of doubt that I might be wrong, and then I'd really have blown it. And then what were you to do when they'd jumped the last, when after all they'd completed two circuits. Did you record it with at least a little hyperbole, or ignore them, which would have seemed very discourteous."

Inevitably, he pitched it just right. O'Sullivan will, as always, be painfully nervous as he prepares for his final day at the office. Even now, his sleep is sometimes disturbed by a nightmare in which dozens of horses are passing his position and he cannot name a single one. He will also acknowledge the tributes, of which there will be hundreds, with all possible modesty. One of the best is offered by Carrie Humble. "He is," she says, "a very precious piece of England."



Peter O'Sullivan thinks it's one of the good things about our time that there is a greater feeling of compassion towards animals Photograph: Robert Halkam



O'Sullivan in 1955: Peter Dimmock's quick assessment of his colleague was 'he is as good as I am bad' Photograph: BBC

## THE VOICE OF RACING

Arkle (1964 Cheltenham Gold Cup):

"They're rounding the home turn and this is it! It's Arkle on the stands side for Ireland and Mill House for England on the far side. Arkle just taking the lead as they come to the last fence. It's gonna be Arkle if he jumps it. He's over and clear. This is the champion, this is the best we've seen for a long time. Arkle is the winner of the Gold Cup..."

Allez France (1974 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe):

"And Allez France unleashes a run on the outside. And it's Allez France, the Queen of Longchamp, who strikes the front..."

Red Rum (1977 Grand National):

"He's getting the most tremendous cheer from the crowd. They're willing him home now. The 12-year-old Red Rum, being preceded only by loose horses, being chased by Churchtown Boy. They're coming to The Elbow. There's a furlong between Red Rum and his third Grand National triumph. And he's coming up to the line to win it like a fresh horse in great style. It's hats off and a tremendous reception - you've never heard one like it at Liverpool! Red Rum wins the National..."

Sagaro (1977 Ascot Gold Cup):

"It's Buckskin from Sagaro. Lester Piggott looking to his left for danger. He thinks he's got Buckskin cold! And it's Sagaro now going into the lead. Here comes Ascot history. Sagaro's going to win it for the third time, and gonna coast home at that..."

Sea Pigeon (1980 Champion Hurdle):

"And Sea Pigeon's going to avenge that defeat of last year! He's striding up to the line, the veteran 10-year-old. He's won it at last! Sea Pigeon wins the Champion Hurdle, Monksfield is beaten for the first time in three years..."

Dawn Run (1986 Cheltenham Gold Cup):

"It's Wayward Lad trying to break his Cheltenham hoodoo, being pressed by Dawn Run in the centre. And the mare's beginning to get up! And as they come to the line, she's made it! Dawn Run has won it from Wayward Lad. And Jonjo O'Neill punches the air as the mare has made Turf history - she's become the first to win the Champion Hurdle and the Gold Cup..."

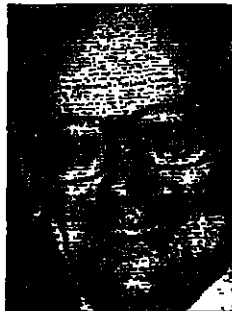
Desert Orchid (1986 Cheltenham Gold Cup):

"Yahoo, who loves the mud is full of running, but Desert Orchid is rallying, he's trying to come again towards the near side. Yahoo on the far side, Desert Orchid on the near side. There's a tremendous cheer from the crowd, Desert Orchid is going to win it! Desert Orchid has won the Gold Cup..."

- Compiled by Ian Davies

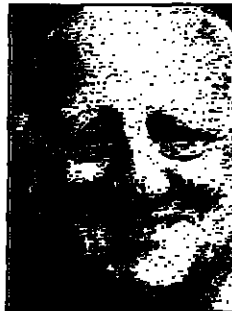
## AN ERA OF ELEGANCE AND ENTHUSIASTS: THE BBC COMMENTATORS WHO PERSONIFIED THEIR SPORTS

The retirement of Peter O'Sullivan signals the passing of a great tradition, the slow ebbing away of commentators motivated by a love of sport and a desire to communicate that passion without embracing the excesses of hyperbole or narrow-minded nationalism. Chris Maume looks at some of the men who made BBC sports coverage an institution.



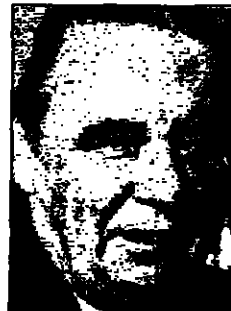
HARRY CARPENTER

Born 1925, began career on *Greyhound Express*. First boxing commentary for BBC in 1949. Finest moment: Muhammad Ali beating Foreman. "Oh my God, I don't believe it! He's won the title back at the age of 32!" he roared. OBE in 1991, retired in '94. Not always objective: "Get in there Frank!" he yelled when Bruno fought Tyson. Catchphrase: not actually his. Know what I mean, Andy?



BRIAN JOHNSTON

Born 1912. Went to Eton and Oxford, served in the Grenadier Guards in the war. BBC Cricket Correspondent 1963-72. Moved from television to *Test Match Special* in early 70s, and commentated on many Royal occasions. Most famous Johnstonballs: "The bowler's Holding, the batsman's Willey." Best Johnstonballs: "Playlingworth has just relieved himself at the Pavilion End."



HENRY LONGHURST

A poet of his craft. Born in 1908, became a journalist and shared a bachelor pad with EW Swanton after leaving Cambridge. *Sunday Times* Golf Correspondent for 21 years. "Golf is the Esperanto of sport," he wrote. All over the world golfers talk the same language, much of it nonsense. Renowned amateur who hung up his clubs when he got the yips. OBE in 1972, died in 1978.



TED LOWE

An official at the Snooker World Championships in 1946. Got his chance as commentator when Raymond Glendinning was struck with laryngitis. Started *Pot Black* in 1969. Retired last year after 43 years of whispering for England, but was brought back in the spring for *Seniors Pot Black*. Most famous Loweball: "For those of you watching in black and white, the blue is behind the yellow."



DAN MASKELL

Left school at 14 to work as a ball-boy at Queen's for three shillings a week. RAF squadron leader during the war. Never missed a day's play at Wimbledon from 1929 to Andre Agassi's win in 1991. Died December 1992, posthumously inducted into International Tennis Hall Of Fame last year. Catchphrases: "Oh I say", "Dream of a backhand". His pauses made him the Pinter of sports commentating.



RON PICKERING

Commentated on six Olympics for the BBC, uttered possibly the most famous Colemanballs, "Juanarena opens his legs and shows his class." Renowned coach - among his successes was Lynn Davies, 1984 Olympic long jump gold medalist. Leading anti-drug campaigner and president of Haringey AC. Died in 1991. Linford Christie dedicated his Olympic gold medal the next year to Pickering.



MURRAY WALKER

First commentary for the BBC was from Silverstone in 1948. Had his ailing hips replaced so he could carry on commentating - in order to be able to walk round the pits. More bloomer-prone than most, but once said: "I don't make mistakes. I make prophecies that are proved wrong." Typical Walkerball: "Unless I'm very much mistaken - I'm very much mistaken!" OBE last year, was 74 in October.



EDDIE WARING

Commentated on rugby league from 1951-81. Spawned countless appreciation societies, though 10,000 signed a petition to have him sacked. As famous for it's A Knockout. Managed Dewsbury in '40s, winning two Challenge Cups and two championships. Catchphrases: "Up and under", "Early bath". Most celebrated line: "Poor lad," as Don Fox infamously missed his conversion at Wembley.



# 19/PHOTO-SHOOT

## THE VOICE OF RACING

Since 1964 Clive...  
They're...  
side for...  
the far...  
the lead...  
comes to...  
the last...  
pumps...  
clear. This...  
champion...  
this is the...  
best we've...  
ing time...  
winner of...  
Gold Cup...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...

And Alex...  
unleashes...  
outside. And...  
France, the...  
Longchamp...  
the first...



## Sport's biggest secret society meet for annual mud fest

It is impossible to be sure precisely how many of them were out on the circuits, in the parks, and along the forest trails, but they reckon at least two million. That figure should be more than sufficient to convey the scale of this annual growling, sliding, bobbie hat and mud fest. The Network Q RAC Rally is the biggest spectator event in British sport.

Yet it remains a world of mystery to those outside the exclusive if enormous circle, a peripheral activity still out of television's remote control and therefore beyond the comprehension of the armchair masses.

Inroads have been made, of course, and the packaging moguls yearn for the day when they can squeeze it all into their small screen. The introduction of a "super special" stage, a Scalextric-style, side-by-side

whizz round a short track is, at best, an irrelevant side show, and, at worst, it's a Knock-Out reincarnate.

The long player rally has been reduced to a compact disc. The purists lament the anaesthetising of the old beast, the passing of the all-night vigils and, this year, the journeys to the Great North Roads that intimidated and often terrified rallying's greatest drivers.

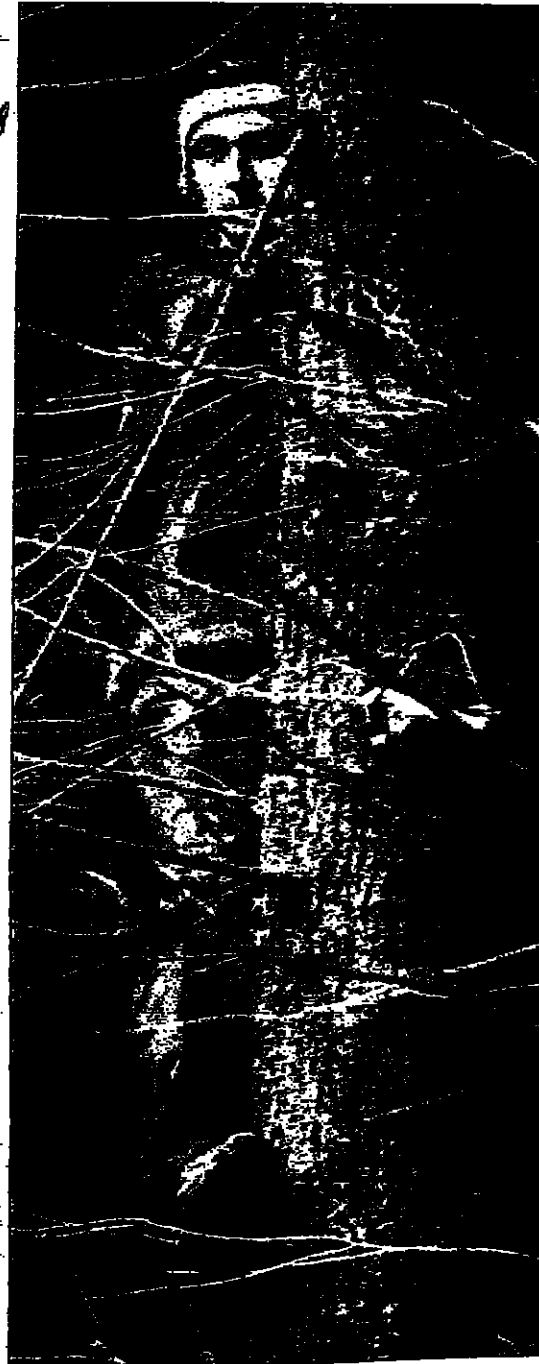
Yet even in its condensed format, the RAC Rally has provided the elements of challenge, drama and danger. Away from the artificial arenas of Sunday, or the "Mickey Mouse" stages as the drivers call them, deep in the forests of Wales, the demands took their toll, stretching the endurance of man and machine.

The stars of the forest tracks were two Britons, Subaru's Colin McRae (pictured above), the even-

tual winner, and Mitsubishi's Richard Burns, who finished fourth. McRae missed out on the world championship by a point but is generally acknowledged as the most gifted driver today. Burns, at 26, three years his junior, has the potential to become a genuine rival.

Their feats are unlikely to dominate conversation in the pubs and clubs of urban Britain, but deep in the forests they talk of little other than their special, style and car control. It is the language of sport's largest secret society, a language they are content to keep to themselves. Copies of these photographs - and any others by the Independent's sports photographers David Ashdown, Peter Jay and Robert Hallam - can be ordered by telephoning 0171-293-2534.

-Derick Allsop



PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
DAVID ASHDOWN







## Neil Back's England career has seen him fêted, dropped, ignored, recalled, hero-worshipped, cast aside, and misunderstood. And today he's coming back for more...

Neil Back squares up to the Springboks at Twickenham this afternoon having spent most of his career proving himself.

Chris Hewett talks to a natural-born fighter who may have finally found a sympathetic home for his unique talents.

These are dangerous waters and Neil Back knows it. It was almost exactly two years ago that South Africa, newly crowned as world champions, swarmed into Twickenham, kicked England's collective backside until the red rose turned red raw and made such an unholy mess of Andy Robinson's long-awaited return to the Test arena that the Bath flanker was back among the has-beens before he could say Nelson Mandela.

Robinson later admitted, albeit through gritted teeth, that he had never felt so helpless on a rugby pitch. There were many reasons for his obvious discomfort - picked by Jack Rowell to play the role of a human catalyst, a link-man working in tandem with his outside half and centres, it took England precisely 38 minutes to give him the ball - but to the "Big Beautiful" brigade, the problem was as plain as the bloodied nose on Robbo's face. He had been overmatched. Ruben Kruger, his opposite number, was five inches taller and three stones heavier. End of story.

Today, the Springboks come armed with an even more imposing physical specimen in the breakdown position. Andre Venter, the fast and fiery Free Stater whose notorious mean streak frequently leaves him on the wrong side of disciplinary tracks, is quite something: 6ft 5in of attitude and 17 stones of stop. Where does that leave

Back and his Robboesque dimensions? In extremely bullish mood, that's where.

"I don't think the Springboks are any more physical than anyone else; certainly, I didn't feel alarmed or threatened by their size or strength during the Lions tour back in the summer. I've had this size thing around my neck for as long as I can remember but quite honestly, it doesn't even register any more.

"We're all more powerful and more dynamic - it's inevitable in a professional environment - and as far as I'm concerned, the old 'bigger they are, the harder they fall' adage is more true today than ever before.

"Look, they don't come much bigger and stronger than Lomu, do they? Watch the tape of the Emerging England-New Zealand game at Huddersfield and you'll see little old me driving him backwards. To my mind, Christian Cullen is a more difficult defensive proposition. At first sight, there's nothing to him. But he steps out of more tackles than anyone I've ever seen. Don't make the mistake of thinking size is everything."

Even so, the issue of size, or lack of it, has given Back more grief than the back rows of the world combined since he first revealed his penchant for perpetual motion with a virtuoso display for England Under-21s in Romania eight years ago. In no particular order, he has been fêted, dropped, ignored, recalled, hero-worshipped, cast aside, mishandled and misunderstood. He has been on the canvas more times than Frank Bruno and spent longer in the cold than Captain Oates. If top-level sport is a roller-coaster experience, Back should be sponsored by Alton Towers.

"There have been plenty of low points, I suppose, and the lowest of the low was that Springbok match in '95. I'd played in the first three World Cup games that summer before

picking up a hamstring and even though I was disappointed at missing the rest of the tournament, I felt I was well and truly in business at England level. When the Boks arrived and Jack Rowell said he was looking to play a genuine open-side, I thought: 'It's got to be me because I'm the only one in the squad.' Then Robbo turned up out of the blue on the Wednesday night and played on the Saturday. That really hurt.

"There were flat times last season, too, especially when the Lions selectors announced their initial squad of 62 last season and my name wasn't there. I was convinced my chance had gone, so you can imagine how I felt when they picked me in the 36 to travel. I was lying in bed when Alison, my fiancée, came in with the mail. When I realised they'd chosen me, I cried my eyes out. Honestly. The tears were streaming down my face. That's how much it meant to me."

Back returned from the tour feeling seven feet tall and with good reason. After years of being overlooked, often without a word of explanation, in favour of Peter Winterbottom, Ben Clarke, Steve Ojomoh, Robinson, Lawrence Dallaglio and, latterly, Richard Hill of Saracens, he had produced his finest rugby on the grand stage for coaches who genuinely valued the skills and commitment he brought to the cause. "It was wonderful to start the final Test in Jo'burg, but the midweek game against Free State in Bloemfontein was just as big a high," he says. "I've never been involved in better rugby than the stuff we produced that night."

Happily, the good vibes remain very much in evidence, even though the new England coaching panel gave Hill the nod for the first two legs of the current four-match SANZA series. "I wanted to play, of course, but I can handle disappointments when the coach is being up front with me and I



Small wonder: Neil Back has been described as too small so often 'it doesn't register any more'. Photograph: David Ashdown

know where I stand," said Back, earnestly.

"This management set-up has it absolutely right in my view. They're leaving no stone unturned in attempting to maximise our chances of winning the next World Cup. They're pulling

in specialist expertise in every conceivable area and they're doing things professionally. Yes, I was a bit down about not starting against Australia, but Clive Woodward gave me his reasons and made me feel part of what was going on. There was no lin-

gering downside, no sense of things happening behind my back.

"As it turns out, I'm playing alongside Richard and Lawrence against the South Africans and I happen to think that we can achieve a great deal as a unit.

We're all footballers with decent hands, but we're all grafters, too, willing to get down there among the studs and win some 50-50 ball. We're comfortable in possession and comfortable with each other, so the Boks can be as big as they like, can't they?"

## Wales heed a warrior's words before All Blacks battle

Wales have attempted to tap into the indomitable spirit of a Falklands War veteran as part of their mental preparation for the Test against the All Blacks at Wembley today.

As Tim Glover reveals, nothing in sport is now left to chance.

Simon Weston, the Welsh guardsman who suffered horrific burns when his ship, the Sir Galahad, was bombed by Argentine fighters, dined with Wales at their hotel in Buckinghamshire and addressed them on the subject of dealing with adversity. It is a theme that is central to a charity he runs called Weston Spirit.

"We weren't sure how the players would react but it was spellbinding," a Welsh Rugby Union official said. "One of the things you learn in the army is about caring for each other and it's something that easily translates to a team game, especially rugby."

It is 43 years and 13 matches since Wales beat the All Blacks and more recently they have taken some fearful hidings including a record 54-5 defeat in 1988. Few expect Wales to stop the rot today - indeed the joke doing the rounds in Wales is that the game has been switched to Lord's where the scoreboard would be better equipped to keep pace with the points - but there are signs that Kevin Bowring, the coach, and Terry Cobner, the manager, are beginning to get the balance right.

"Welsh forwards saw themselves as ball-handlers rather than ball-winners and in this respect we seemed to have gone full circle," Cobner said. "Traditionally we had ball-winners not users. Welsh backs are still among the best and could beat any opponent in a one-to-one. What we haven't been doing is winning enough possession to put them in that position. We have made a fundamental change in that first and foremost all the forwards are there to win the ball."

That, of course, is the rub, for Wales are feeding a back line that looks as impressive as anything assembled in Britain. For the first time in a long time Wales have players who will have caused the All Blacks to think long and hard for starters the half-backs Robert Howley, playing against New Zealand for

the first time, and Neil Jenkins and the centres Allan Bateman and Scott Gibbs are world class.

"This could be our most difficult Test," John Hart, the New Zealand coach, said. "Wales look more co-ordinated than England. They are well coached and maybe enjoying a resurgence."

You would not expect Hart who, since his appointment two years ago has won 19 Tests out of 20 (the only defeat came in South Africa when the series was already won) to say: "We are the best in the world and Wales have no right to be on the same paddock as us." Even so, Hart is genuinely concerned about the welfare of Welsh rugby and can pinpoint the beginning of its demise.

"They finished third in the World Cup in 1987 and probably thought they were the third

best team in the world," Hart said. "But it was a false picture. The week before they were comprehensively beaten by the All Blacks in Brisbane and that is when Welsh rugby died. They also lost players to rugby league but all that's finished now. I hope Wales are on the way back because we have a historic relationship."

"I just wish the game had been at Cardiff Arms Park." In two years' time the All Blacks will be gracing the new £120m stadium in Cardiff for the next World Cup.

Hart said he was not at all surprised that Bowring had promised there would be no repeat of England's confrontational approach to the All Blacks.

"Both teams will line up on the respective 10 metre lines," said Bowring, who has entrusted the captaincy to the Cardiff

flanker Gwyn Jones, a 25-year-old medical student. "He understands the game I want to play and he's utterly courageous."

Jones took over the captaincy on a tour of the United States last summer and has carried on with bloodless victories over Romania and Tonga. This game though, in front of a crowd of 78,000, is a different ballgame.

"For us it's a double-edged sword playing against such an outstanding side," Jones said. "Because you're looking for ways to improve your own game while measuring yourself against the best. We have experienced players who are full of confidence. Welsh rugby has benefited from the Lions' success and has given as the belief that we can perform at the highest level."

### WALES v NEW ZEALAND

at Wembley			
K Morgan	Pontypridd	15 C Cullen	Manawatu
G Thomas	Bridgend	14 J Wilson	Otago
A Bateman	Richmond	13 F Bunce	North Harbour
S Gibbs	Swansea	12 W Little	North Harbour
N Walker	Cardiff	11 J Lomu	Counties
N Jenkins	Pontypridd	10 A Mehrtens	Canterbury
R Howley	Cardiff	9 J Marshall	Canterbury, capt
C Loader	Swansea	8 C Dowd	Auckland
B Williams	Richmond	7 N Hewitt	Southlands
D Young	Cardiff	6 O Brown	Auckland
G Llewellyn	Harlequins	5 J Jones	North Harbour
M Voyke	Llanelli	4 R Brooke	Auckland
R Appleyard	Swansea	3 T Randall	Otago
N Thomas	Bath	2 Z Brooke	Auckland
G Jones	Cardiff, capt	1 J Kronfeld	Otago

Substitutes: 16 L Davies (Cardiff); 17 A Thomas (Swansea); 18 P Jones (Pontypridd); 19 S Jones (Swansea); 20 J Humphreys (Cardiff); 21 S Williams (Swansea).

Referee: W Erickson (Australia). Kick-off: 3.0 (BBC1).

Jones, who has had two shoulder operations in the last three years, may become a career specialist, like JPR Williams, in sports injuries.

"I can help injured players

on the psychological side as well as with treatment and rehabilitation," he said.

Jones, perhaps more than most, empathised with Simon Weston's address.

### QUOTES OF THE WEEK

- I don't want to lose every game. I don't sit there and have any more enjoyment than the fans do. Peter Johnson, Everton chairman, on the barracking he has received.
- Everton is a house on fire, the walls are down and, if the blaze isn't put out soon, it will engulf the entire club. Alan Ball, formerly of Everton, after defeat to Aston Villa.
- The training ground will not turn into Colditz Camp. Alan Sugar, Spurs chairman, on his new coach, Christian Gross.
- I could get Spurs into the top six and into Europe. Uri Geller volunteers his services.
- All we asked is for some respect towards our culture. That kind of behaviour has no place on the field. John Hart, New Zealand coach, on England's reaction to the haka.
- The current structure of English rugby is laughable. I don't think there is a country in the world in a worse position to generate a successful national side. Clive Woodward, England rugby union coach.
- If we did it properly, our Test players would play three or four Championship matches a season. David Graveney, England chairman of selectors, on his plan to withdraw Test players from county matches.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

#### Keighley and Workington supported in fight against 'vultures'

Clubs outside Super League have rallied around Keighley and Huddersfield to protect them from threats to expel them from the game.

The two clubs - plus the apparently doomed Prescot - are facing expulsion at the meeting of the Rugby League Council on Wednesday, but their peers in the First and Second Division Association have pledged to defend them.

"We don't think that the fans of Keighley and Workington should be deprived of their teams," said Fasha's chief executive, Bob Scott, after yesterday's meeting of the association. "Super League are waiting like vultures to try to

grab these two clubs' share of the Murdoch money and the unanimous view was that we should support them."

The former Keighley director, Mike Smith, who was recently sacked from the board by the administrator who has run the club for over a year but who remains in the forefront of efforts to save the club, said that an investor might take the club out of administration this weekend.

Failing that, the outstandingly well-supported Cougars are likely to have hundreds of fans lobbying the Council meeting at Salford. Workington are also capable of staging a demonstration of their determination

to survive, despite also being in the hands of an administrator for over a year.

Salford have become the first club to be backed by a High Street fashion label. Joe Bloggs have signed a £240,000 two-year contract to provide the club with a new kit and leisurewear.

The Joe Bloggs chairman, Shami Ahmed, said: "We've got a lot of confidence in Salford and we think they are going places. This is the kind of sport that relates to our street fashions."

Among the first to wear the new shirts were the new signings, Martin Crompton and Josh White, who are expected to contest the scrum-half position next season.

"I was in the same sort of competition with Shaun Edwards at the London Broncos last season," White said. "It makes you perform to the best of your ability."

London have made two more signings from Australia, with the South Queensland pair of Steele Retchless and Matt Tishack joining their squad.

Warrington have turned down a cash offer from Wigan for Paul Sculthorpe, but, with Leeds and St Helens joining Wigan, London and Bradford in being linked with the player, his agent, David McKnight, expects him to move by the end of next week.

- Dave Hodfield

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

#### Cowboys may miss play-offs after Oilers strike in Dallas

An already troubled season for the Dallas Cowboys became demonstrably worse on Thursday night when they lost at home to the Tennessee Oilers.

The Cowboys were beaten 27-14 in one of two Thanksgiving Day fixtures. It was their second defeat in five days, takes their record to 6-7 and puts them in severe danger of missing the play-offs for the first time in seven seasons. Even if his team is competing beyond the regular season, the fate of the Cowboys head coach Barry Switzer appears sealed, but this latest defeat may hasten his departure.

Troy Aikman - who nearly

missed his first play because he needed a muscle relaxant to relieve severe back spasms which developed in the warm-up - made a poor start and was intercepted on his second and fifth pass attempt, and three times in all. Darryll Lewis claimed two of the interceptions and forced a fumble which was returned for a touchdown.

Barry Sanders rushed for 167 yards for the Detroit Lions as they beat the Chicago Bears 55-20 in the other Thanksgiving Day game. Sanders became the first person to rush for more than 100 yards in 11 successive games in one season.

## After years of turmoil a legend comes full circle

Bjorn Borg, the winner of five consecutive Wimbledon singles titles, is due to play in Britain next week for the first time since losing his crown to John McEnroe in 1981. Borg's participation in the ATP Senior Tour of Champions event at the Royal Albert Hall revives piercing memories for his erstwhile agent and for his former coach.

They boppers at Wimbledon used to proffer their bras to Bjorn Borg. Nowadays he is in men's and women's underwear on Sloane Avenue. The Scandinavian scannies are among the remains of the Borg brand name empire.

"The underwear brand was one of the things I helped set up for him," recounted Peter Worth, Borg's former agent, "and it has gone from strength to strength."

In a sense, Worth's business life has turned full circle since he was left to sort out the crumpled contracts after Borg announced his retirement in 1983, aged 26.

As the managing director of the Quintus Group on the King's Road, Worth is the tournament chairman for next week's Honda Challenge at the Royal Albert Hall, where Borg is due to play for the first time in these islands since losing the Wimbledon singles title to John McEnroe in 1981.

The irony of the situation is not lost on Worth's sense of humour, although his demeanour on the occasion Borg informed him of his decision to leave the sport probably rivalled a Japanese stockbroker last Monday.

Worth, assigned by Mark McCormack's International Management Group to take responsibility for Borg's affairs, had worked with the Swede for six years. The unsuspecting agent and his family were on a two-week skiing holiday at Val d'Isère in France. One evening, when the family were sitting down to dinner at their hotel, Worth was called to the telephone. He was puzzled, having told his secretary not to give anyone his number.

It was Borg. "Peter," he said, "I've decided to quit playing the circuit. My last tournament will be Monte Carlo in April, but that's the last one."

Although Borg's refusal to commit himself to the required number of tour events in 1982 had resulted in the indignity of having to pre-qualify for tournaments, there had been no indication of early retirement.

"I don't understand, Bjorn," a shocked Worth said to his client. "You're only 26 and you've got at least another four years at the top."

"It doesn't matter," Borg

replied. "I've made my decision. I want you to talk with the others at IMG and take care of everything. But you're not to make any public announcements yet. We'll talk about that later. And remember, there's no use in trying to convince me to keep playing. I've made up my mind."

The dialogue, which Worth acknowledges to be reasonably accurate, is taken from a book on Borg written by Lars Skarke, described on the jacket as a "firm friend". Skarke, who was IMG's Swedish representative, became a partner in the ill-fated Bjorn Borg Design Group. *Winner Loses All* (Blake Publishing, 1993) is a lurid account of Borg's experiences away from the court.

Worth did endeavour to convince Borg to play on. "I spent a few months trying to persuade him," he says. "The response was always the same. 'It's no use. I've made up my mind.' The agent spent the next two years dealing with the implications of Borg's departure."

He has said that he had thought about it for a couple years, but I don't know about that," Worth said. "It was a surprise to us. His contracts were subject to his playing tennis. There were no clauses relating to early retirement. We didn't conceive that would happen."

Borg's career prize-money amounted to \$3,609,896 (£2.4m). In 1981 he had earned more than \$4m from advertisements and in 1982, in spite of a reduced playing schedule, his revenue from advertising was around \$3m. He had long-term agreements with Donnay rackets and Fila sportswear, with whom he put pinstripes back in fashion. He was told he would be sacrificing about \$4m over the next year alone.

Borg and Worth eventually parted company. "He had had enough of me," Worth said. "We had been working together for nine years. He went his way and I went mine. From '85 to '94 we had no contact at all. Now he plays three or four events for me every year."

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"I have no regrets. I had 10 great years with Mark McCormack. For some people it was business. For us it was excitement. Borg wasn't my only client." Among the others was Mats Wilander, Borg's successor as Sweden's leading player.

During what has been termed Borg's wilderness years, his personal life was often in greater turmoil than his business affairs. His first marriage, to Mariana Simionescu, the Romanian tennis player, foundered and they divorced (her settlement was reportedly \$15m).

Borg had a son, Robin, by Jannike Bjorling, a children's nurse, and later developed a relationship with Loredana Berté, an Italian rock singer. In 1989, a few months before he was due to marry Berté, Borg was rushed to hospital in Milan to have his stomach pumped. His explanation (food poisoning and a few sleeping pills) conflicted with reports of a barbiturate overdose. Later that year Borg's design company was declared bankrupt.

In 1991, the 34-year-old Borg made an abortive comeback on the

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared Borg's greatest triumphs. "Of course, if you put him with an enthusiastic youngster of 20 years old it is very difficult," Bergelin conceded, "but I'm sure he could give a lot of them a very good fight."

It gladdens Bergelin to see his former pupil back among contemporaries after courting

regular tour, encouraged by a British guru, "Professor" Ron Thatcher, and using a wooden Donnay against synthetic modern rackets, a catapult against Magnums. Loredana Berté, who married Borg in 1989, attempted suicide and the couple were divorced in 1993.

The senior tour, co-ordinated as never before, has rejuvenated the 41-year-old Borg, who is scheduled to renew his rivalry with McEnroe in London next Friday afternoon.

"Bjorn is in very good shape right now, and he moves very well," observed Lennart Bergelin, the Swedish coach who shared







## The Hall of Fame's a farce – but I'd be in if my name was Gaffé



### THE GAFFER TAPES

Hall of Fame? Hall of Shame more like. I mean, look at some of the names they chose to put in this glorified war-works. Pele, a fair player but he couldn't handle the hard men in 1966 – or 1962 when Brazil showed they could win the World Cup without him. Cruyff, another bottler, didn't go to Argentina because he didn't like their government. No wonder he turned down those English jobs while Maggie was in charge. Puuskas, I've since pictures of him and he looks a right fatty so he couldn't have been much cop. George Best, well, if it was an international birding, boozing and getting arrested Hall of Fame he's a cert – except he wouldn't turn up. The whole thing's a farce.

I was saying just that to the chairman this morning and he said I was just bitter because I wasn't in it. Ridiculous, me, bitter? I'm known as Mr Generous-of-spirit at the golf club, or was it Generous-measure-of-spirits? Like Harpo Marx said, or was it Karl?

"Any Hall of Fame that won't let you in isn't worth being in."

Mind you, I should be in. I'm a bigger legend than Big Ron. My playing days speak for themselves, three successful promotion campaigns, a League Cup runners-up medal and two appearances for the Football League XI when that meant something. But that's not my main claim, it's the other things I've done that should have been recognised.

There was the XY formation, specially formulated for playing with 10 men. The fitness video, as used by Tottenham Hotspur. The classic camel-skin coat and matching tights. Three points for a win – it started in our Subbuteo league. Top place in the Pig & Whistle's Fantasy league two years running. I was also the first manager in the Premiership to complete my Panini World Cup collection – though Roud might have beaten me if he hadn't thought you had to buy the real-life player as well. Only last week my influence persuaded Sludgethorpe

Council to change the name of our bus stop from Acacia Avenue to Old Cornfield in honour of the club.

But that wasn't enough for the idiots who picked it. I'm told they were computer nerds on the Internet and journals so maybe I shouldn't be surprised. These people don't have a clue about the game, they just sit there, social inadequates, staring at the screen all day. And I bet the computer types are just as bad.

Maybe I should have changed my name. Pele, Zico, Eusebio, Garrincha, Jairzinho, there's a disproportionate number with one name. Perhaps I should have called myself Gafferissimo, Gafferincha or, simply, Gaffé.

Of course, if I was manager of Barcelona I'd be nicknamed El Gaffer. Not that it's likely, though I did mention to President Núñez, when I was at the Nou Camp for the Newcastle game doing TV summarising for the Playboy Channel, that Louis van Gaal had made a right pig's ear of it and English

managers were clearly good for Barcelona.

I quite fancy the Newcastle job as well, Kenny's bound to do a runner soon so that'll be available. Apparently they prefer teams to go down in a blaze of glory rather than nicking 1-0 wins. Having lost 4-3, 5-2, 6-1 and 7-0 this season I think I can safely say my team meets that criteria, better get a copy of the CV typed up just in case.

I'll have to do it myself as we've let Bridget, our latest secretary, go after some problems in Barcelona. I suggested she come along to help me with some arrangements but distinctly remember telling her that, due to the latest expenses purge, she was to book only one room.

Naturally I was disappointed to discover she had booked two rooms but understood when I discovered two of her mates had come along as well. It was the unfortunate incident involving the three of them, an emptied mini-bar, the complimentary bowl of fruit and the bell boy that convinced me she had to

go. I'm not against a bit of fun, as long as I can join in. As it is the club is being billed for all the fittings damaged when the sprinkler system went off. I told her not to light up in a no-smoking room.

"At least we're getting a few quid this week by loaning the Old Cornfield to the local rugby club. Apparently playing rugby at footy grounds is the trendy thing. I just hope they behave themselves. Spending all afternoon with their heads up each other's backsides seems to make these blokes behave very strangely. I've hidden my after-shave collection in case they get thirsty and Sir Hiram's locked the boardroom, we don't want hookers cavorting on the oak table, at least not until the board's Christmas party. Shaun Prouse will not be travelling with us, he has kicked a back muscle playing snooker while Ivor Niggie has heavy bruising which he said he got after he fell off while surfing the Internet."

Barry Gaffer was talking to Glenn Moore

## SIDELINES

### When Trautmann joined County set



#### THE EX-FILES

In the space of three years in the mid-1960s, Stockport County finished last in the League and Manchester City first. Today they meet in a First Division derby with County 13 places above City – a situation Bert Trautmann must find more bemusing than most.

The former PoW, now retired in Germany, played 508 times in City's goal at Premiership level before sampling life at the foot of the Fourth Division as County's general manager. Curiously, Trautmann is one of numerous keepers to serve both clubs, including Steve Fleet, Alan Ogley, Ken Mulhearn (of City's title-winning side of '68), Barry Siddall, Paul Cooper and current County custodian Eric Nixon.

Stockport also have a tradition of appointing ex-City players as manager. Gary Megson is the latest in a line stretching from David Ashworth in the 1920s, through Bob Marshall before the war and Jimmy Meadows in the "Go, Go, Go County!" era Trautmann helped to launch, to Mike Summerbee and Asa Hartford in recent times.

Stuart Lee and Bill Williams made scant impact on stepping up from Edgeley Park to Maine Road, whereas County's historic role has been to take City's surplus stock, like the splendidly named Albert Emptage, David Shawcross and Ade Mike, or veterans such as Alex Hurd and Roy Clarke. Hurd, who partnered his son David (later of Manchester United) in County's attack, was part of City's first championship team in 1937. Typically, they went down a year later.

## Liverpool set to challenge blocking of Friedel move

Brad Friedel was unexpectedly blocked from joining Liverpool last night when the Government turned down his work permit application.

The United States international goalkeeper was shocked to find out that his £2m move to Anfield had been stopped by the Department of Environment and Education. Liverpool are ready to take the fight to the High Court.

The Department blocked the move because it ruled that Friedel fell just below the number of caps needed to get a work permit. The guidelines state a players should have "around 75 per cent of caps in the past two years." Friedel has 71.4 per cent from playing in 10 out of the last 14 competitive games.

Ironically, Friedel has played more internationals than his American rival, Kasey Keller, who is already in the country at Leicester City.

Friedel's record was good enough for the football authorities to give the move their blessing on Monday, but the Overseas Labour Office ignored their recommendation. Portsmouth have had similar problems with an Australian keeper, Zeljko Kalac.

It is the fifth time Friedel has had a work permit application rejected. Celtic, Newcastle, Sunderland and Southampton have all failed in the past. He could go to Europe where Benfica, FSV Eindhoven and Kaiserslautern are keen on him.

A Department spokesman said last night: "Friedel did not meet the criteria for football in our opinion – although the club has a right to appeal."

Liverpool put out a statement last night that read: "We

find it incredible that it has taken so long for the Department to reach such an unsatisfactory conclusion. We shall take further advice on the matter once we have received written confirmation of the decision and their reasons for it."

Fulham have been blocked in their quest to field three former Premiership men for the trip to Preston today. They have spent almost £2m this week on Alan Neilson from Southampton, Paul Trollope from Derby and Steve McAnesspie from Bolton, but their fax to the Football League to register the trio arrived too late for them to play today.

The Coventry manager, Gordon Strachan, has put the David Burrows-Mark Pembroke exchange deal on hold. Burrows has agreed personal terms with Sheffield Wednesday – but Strachan has not yet spoken to Pembroke. Coventry hope to receive £350,000 plus Pembroke in the deal, if the Welsh international agrees terms.

Oxford United have eased their financial worries by selling their midfielder Bobby Ford to Sheffield United for £400,000. The Manor Ground club, whose debts are estimated at over £10m, put all their players up for sale a week ago.

Chris Sutton has signed a new contract with Blackburn Rovers that will keep him at the club until the summer of 2003.

The Birmingham City defender Michael Johnson is the latest British-based player who hopes to win a call-up from Jamaica for the World Cup. He was born in Nottingham but his parents were both born in Jamaica.

— Alan Nixon

### Dykstra bent on keeping Celtic at bay

Sieb Dykstra, Dundee United's Dutch goalkeeper, is confident of handling the pressure and keeping his manager's blood pressure down in tomorrow's Coca-Cola Cup final against Celtic.

Dykstra admitted he blundered in gifting Henrik Larsson Celtic's second goal in the 4-0 league win the Parkhead club enjoyed last week, and has promised not to run into further trouble in the final at Ibrox.

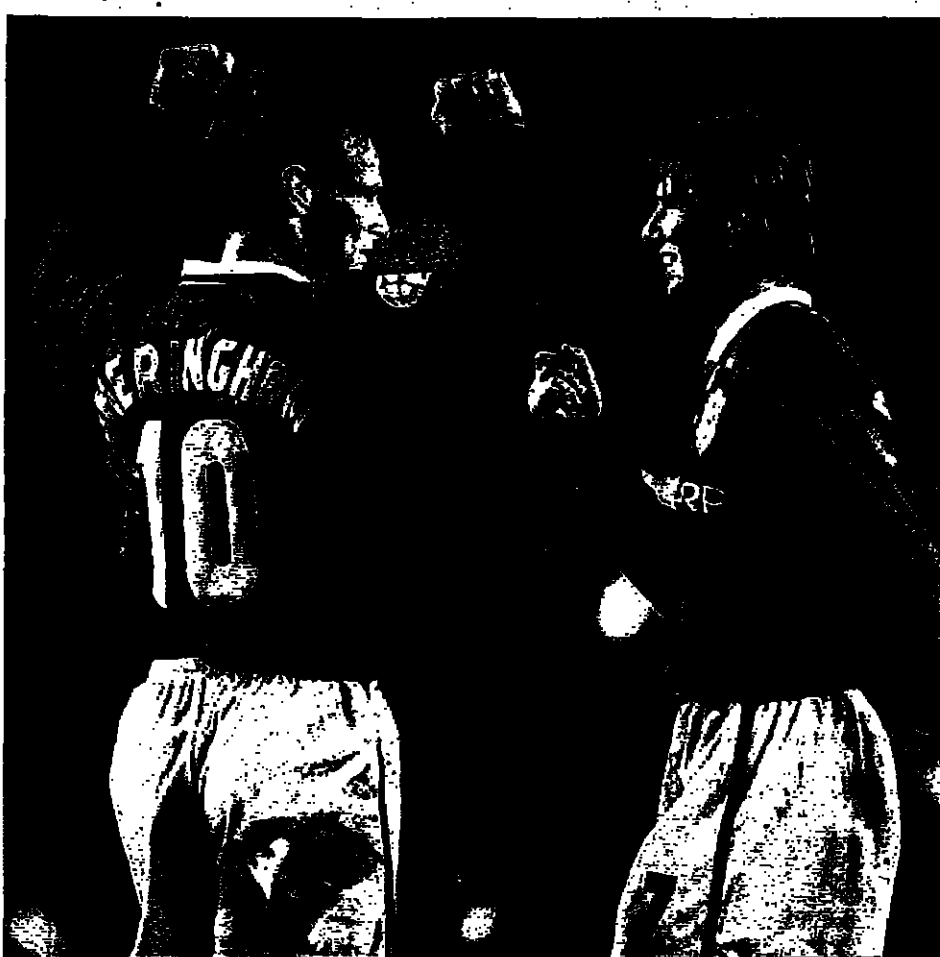
After a week of reflection, Dykstra reckons the heavy defeat in that dress rehearsal could even benefit United as the Celtic support are certain to demand a repeat performance, which may work against Wim Jansen's side.

Dykstra, 31, has the odd error apart, enjoyed a consistent season for United this term and has emerged as a popular figure in a United side he rates as the best seen at Tannadice for years. He said: "Ahead of last week's game, we had gained six straight victories and I think we have forgotten the result at Celtic Park already."

Talking to the players in the dressing room, the feeling is we will do well on Sunday as we have more than enough quality to beat them. The 4-0 scoreline was not a fair reflection of the match, on another day the ball would have gone in for us.

"I think it helps playing them again so quickly and the good thing about the 4-0 loss is that everybody now expects Celtic to win easily – especially their own support. That will put more pressure on Celtic."

Dykstra conceded he was unhappy with his own contribution last week at Parkhead, but refuses to let his spirits drop. "I was not too pleased with the second goal that I let in. I should have held the ball. Even after fumbling it, I would usually have got to my knee and Henrik Larsson pounced. Overall this season, however, I am very happy with my form, my performances have pleased me," he said.



Manchester United's Teddy Sheringham (left) celebrates his goal against Kosić with David Beckham at Old Trafford on Thursday night. Photograph: Rui Vieira/PA

## United's position of strength

Manchester United can establish themselves as the team to beat in Europe. Martin Lipton reports.

Having achieved virtual perfection in Europe, Manchester United can turn their minds to producing something similar in the Premiership over the next four months before the Champions' Cup returns to distract them.

Thursday's effortless dismissal of Kosić should have cleared away any doubts anyone could have had over the quality of the squad Alex Ferguson now has at his command. The only question mark lingers over their ability to take chances; they missed a handful on Thursday.

United can go to Turin for

their final Group B match in 12 days' time with their quarter-final place secure but two targets in sight: they can establish themselves as the team to beat in Europe and end the challenge of the Champions' League's strongest nation. Italian sides – Milan or Juventus – have appeared in all five finals since the European Cup emerged reborn in 1992, each winning once. Now, Parma's hopes hang by the thinnest of threads after being held at home by Sparta Prague, and United can put an end to Juve's campaign by denying them in Turin.

Even if United were to lose, Juve could go out. A draw between Monaco and Bayer Leverkusen in Group F would send them both through and wins in Group D for Real Madrid and Rosenborg – at home to Porto and at Olympiakos, respectively – would do likewise for them, knocking Juve out irrespective of the result in Turin. Along with United, Germany's Bayern Munich and Borussia Dortmund, and the Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev are already sure of their places.

Ferguson admits the turn of events this week – set in motion by Feyenoord's win over Juve – has forced him to reassess the dangers to his team. "It's difficult to say who the main threats to us are now," he said. "There have been some shocks. It looks as if PSV could be out, too, and there could still be some more."

One thing that Ferguson thinks has made all the difference for his side this season is confidence. "Last year we had the comfort of knowing we could finish second in the group and still qualify. But this time we felt we had to be first. We've done that, and I think we've deserved it."

## Miller aiming to prove a point

Alan Miller, West Bromwich Albion's man of the moment, will run out at the Riverside Stadium today with a point to prove to Middlesbrough's manager, Bryan Robson.

Miller insists the game is not a grudge match against the club which sold him to Albion for a bargain £400,000 in March, but admits he was deeply disappointed with the way his career on Teesside turned out.

The London-born goalkeeper made an immediate impact as a key part of the Middlesbrough side which powered to the First Division title in 1995, but he lost his place in the team once they had moved into the Premiership.

He was then allowed to go to Albion, first on loan and then in a £400,000 move. That has

proved to be a master stroke by Ray Harford, with Miller producing 14 clean sheets in 32 games.

Miller said: "I was desperately disappointed after working hard and gaining promotion. That was the highlight of my career. But not getting a run of games after that was upsetting because without that you can't get your form together. If I am honest about things, that period made me find things out about myself. It was good for my attitude to training and to football in general."

"At Middlesbrough, the highs were high and the lows were very low. I couldn't really understand some of the things that went on there. I think the manager was under a lot of pressure to cut wages."

Jaime Moreno may have to wait for his chance to impress in his second spell at Middlesbrough. The Bolivian international striker is keen to help Boro's push for promotion after returning to the Riverside after a spell with Washington DC United, but Robson feels he may not yet be ready.

Craig Hignett has not broken his collar bone as was first feared but he has strained tendons in his shoulder and will miss the game with West Bromwich. Anthony Ormerod will replace Hignett.

Darren Williams has recovered from a head wound to retain his place in an unchanged Sunderland side for the home game against Tranmere. Michael Gray has also recovered from a groin injury.

Huddersfield's leading scorer, Marcus Stewart, returns after hamstring trouble to form a £2m partnership with Wayne Allison for the first time when Bury visit the McAlpine Stadium.

The Birmingham City midfielder Martin Grainger starts a three-game ban and will miss the home match against Portsmouth. The central defender Darren Wassall will have a late fitness check on his ankle injury.

The Portsmouth striker Mathias Svensson is expected to make his first appearance in two months and the Jamaican international Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson return. Terry Fenwick's side will be without their Australian, Craig Foster, John Aloisi and Robbie Enes, who are needed for the World Cup qualifier against Iran.

## Superior Stockport relish fallen neighbours' visit

Stockport play Manchester City in the league for the first time in 87 years today and will relish their superior position as they go into the game.

While County lie seventh in the First Division, their mighty neighbours from seven miles up the A6 are 20th and struggling. The ex-City contingent at Edgeley Park, including the manager, Gary Megson, and goalkeeper, Eric Nixon, who both had spells at Maine Road in better days, intend to make the most of the encounter.

"I followed City as a lad and then played for them," Nixon said. "Obviously I've got a soft spot for them but make no mistake, I'll be doing all I can to keep a clean sheet."

Megson, who said he always thought City fans believed he lacked the skill to play for their team, is no less determined.

"City are a huge club with huge support and they're only just up the road," he said. "But I've got no real interest in them. To tell you the truth, I'm only interested in what Stockport are doing."

County expect to name the side that won at Crewe last week, with Sean Connolly having fully recovered from a back injury.

### THIS WEEK

On 2 December 1911, Blackburn Rovers travelled to Manchester to continue their challenge for the First Division title.

Their opponents that day, however, were not their main championship rivals, top-of-the-table Manchester United, but the other local team, and supposed walkovers, Manchester City.

A walkover it was not. Despite being under the stewardship of captain "Cultured" Bob Crompton, an England full-back in the Graeme Le Saux mould, Blackburn lost 3-0, and even suffered the indignity of a Crompton own goal.

On the same day, Manchester United beat Newcastle 3-2, but ultimately it mattered not for Rovers. They went on to win the First Division title that season for the first time, with both United and City well behind.

### THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

TRANSFERS: Thomas Myrnes (goalkeeper) Viking Stavanger (Nor) to Everton (£200k); Steve Johnson (midfielder) Tottenham (Nor) to Southampton (£200k); Mitch Ward (midfielder) Sheffield United to Everton (£100k); Carl Tiller (defender) Sheffield United to Everton (£100k); Stuart Pearce (forward) Everton to Sheffield United (£100k); Paul Trollope (midfielder) Derby County to Fulham (£100k); Steve McAnesspie (defender) Bolton Wanderers to Fulham (£100k); Owen Ardronson (midfielder) Cardiff City to Middlesbrough (£100k); Nathan Williams (forward) Aston Villa (Norwich) to Middlesbrough (£100k); Nathan Williams (forward) Aston Villa (Norwich) to Middlesbrough (£100k).

### HISTORY LESSON

When Manchester City travel today to Stockport County, who are 13 places above their neighbours in the First Division, they might like to look back on the last season the two clubs were in the same division.

The 1909-10 campaign ended with the same margin between the two clubs but, while Stockport finished 13th City won the title. City won both matches against their local rivals 2-1.

The First Division that year looked very similar to today's Premiership, with a top five of Aston Villa, Liverpool, Blackburn, Newcastle, and Manchester United.

Football in the south was struggling to make an impact then. In the top two divisions there were only six clubs from south of Birmingham: Tottenham, Bristol City, Woolwich Arsenal, Chelsea, Fulham and Clapton Orient.

Football in the south was struggling to make an impact then. In the top two divisions there were only six clubs from south of Birmingham: Tottenham, Bristol City, Woolwich Arsenal, Chelsea, Fulham and Clapton Orient.

Contributors: Phil Shaw, Nick Harris, Paul Newman. Readers' contributions welcome. Send to Sidelines, Sports Desk, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. e-mail address: sport@independent.co.uk







## Leonhardsen eager to battle as Liverpool go for broke

Liverpool play Arsenal tomorrow and Manchester United next Saturday in a make or break week for their title challenge.

Can they change from being infuriatingly fickle to consistent match winners? A fully committed Oyvind Leonhardsen is in no doubt.

So much for the Spice Boys image. The Liverpool players had been given the day off, the weather was dank and uninviting, but Melwood was packed instead of isolated. Steve McManaman and Robbie Fowler practised shooting, Jamie Redknapp was alone flicking the ball from foot to foot, creating circles of precision in the misty air.

In the distance two figures shot repeatedly against a wooden wall. One, Bjorn Kvamme, was tall, every inch a professional footballer, but the other had a smaller, almost boyish physique. He could have been a teenager, his mind seeing Wembley or Anfield instead of darkened timber. Over and over again, left foot, right foot, volley, chip.

Every boy with a shred of football ambition has been there and Oyvind Leonhardsen certainly had. "Just like when I was a kid," he said, smiling at the memory. A Norwegian kid whose television heroes in those days wore the red shirt he now wears. Maybe Kenny Dalglish also drilled against Melwood's wooden walls. Leonhardsen would hope so.

It is a big season for a midfielder whose build and willingness to work reminds the Kop of a latter day left-sided Ray Houghton. It began with a £3.5m move from Wimbledon and will culminate in the World Cup finals, a season that, in League terms, will probably hinge on the next seven days.

Liverpool, the great enigmas of the Premiership, face Arsenal tomorrow at Highbury and Manchester United next Saturday at Anfield knowing that successive defeats will make the runners-up spot and the Champions' League an unlikely carrot never mind the ultimate domestic prize.

No one has a clue whether they will succeed. Roy Evans no more than the rest of us. Brilliant or awful, deadly or prodigal, the team slip from one to the other without a join. There have been some glorious performances since Evans became manager in January 1994, but there have been achingly frustrating ones, too, the most stark in the memory being Strasbourg away and Barnsley at home.

The next seven days could undo a lot of the damage in the Premiership and the players

know it. Which is why they forsook their day of leisure to go to the training ground at Melwood. Neil Ruddock, Mark Wright, Rob Jones, Jason McAteer all sweating when they could have been in bed. Who says they do not care?

"We do care," Leonhardsen said. "The fact we're here shows everyone is trying. Consistency has been a problem for years now, and if we knew why we'd probably be champions. All you can do is work as hard as you can and try to get it right. It hasn't happened yet but we're training even on our days off to be the best."

"I've been doing ball work, developing skills. Even at 30 years old you can still learn things if you're prepared to try."

Perhaps if Leonhardsen, 27, had been fit at the start of the season, Liverpool would not have made such a lethargic start. Eager, energetic, he was at the vanguard of a Norwegian invasion of the Premiership when he arrived at Wimbledon for £600,000 in December 1994 after helping Rosenborg to a third successive Norwegian title.

For two and-a-half years he personified the Wimbledon craft-with-graft ethos, an uncut jewel among many polished in south London. He is, Joe Kin-

Sunday's match. Now it's hard. Two big games and we need at least four points from them.

"We know we're capable of doing it. You have to be positive. Even against Barnsley we didn't play particularly well but we created a lot of chances. That's the positive side to the game, we could have won. At least we know we are creating enough to score even on bad days. We have to forget that game and look forward to Arsenal."

In other words, his new side are infuriatingly fickle. Coming from the overachievers, Wimbledon, to the underachievers of Anfield, Leonhardsen should be better placed than anyone to put his finger on Liverpool's erratic nature but his answer is a familiar one: pressure.

"The training methods are not very different, but you don't have the pressure at Wimbledon. Each week they stay in the Premiership is an achievement for them. When they are playing big clubs like Liverpool, United or Arsenal they're just happy with every point they can get. It's easier being the underdog."

"Here we know we have to win every game and it's a big difference. If Wimbledon lose three games in a row it's not a crisis, everyone says 'yes, that's typical'. At Liverpool people would want to know what's wrong. There's great expectation, it's something you have to live with. It's one of the reasons I came here."

There was also the call of his youth in Kristiansund - the small Norwegian town where Manchester United's Ole Gunnar Solskjaer also hails from - and watching Liverpool matches on television. "I always loved English football. It was so fast and exciting and the crowds created a great atmosphere. It's end to end which I thought would suit my style of play."

Wimbledon thought so, too, and now Liverpool, where he has been given a left-flank role rather than the central midfield one he would prefer. "It's my favourite position," he agreed. "Sometimes I feel I could do more there. You can get isolated on the wing and I feel I'd do better if I began my runs from a more central position. My inclination is to cut inside rather than out, but I'm adapting. I feel it's going well. The competition is so strong here I'm happy just to play."

"Leo", as his team-mates call him - his Wimbledon nickname was "Rigsby" - left Melwood to go house hunting. No beers, no carousing, no modelling. Vinny Jones, in his infamous newspaper column once described him as "boring", which in professional football speak means he is admired for his application and ambition.

"It's very special to be with Liverpool," he said, "but I want to win something. I didn't come here just for the sake of it. I believe we can. The season is still young." The next seven days will decide if Liverpool's is going to age prematurely.

BY GUY  
HODGSON

near, agrees: "One of the best players I've ever signed."

Rob Jones, Liverpool's right-back, has played with and against him. "He never stops running," he said. "He's a busy player and he's hard to mark because he's here and there, moving all the time. Unless you're careful he'll get into positions you don't expect and, for a midfielder, he scores a lot of goals. A team need a player who will sit in midfield and another who goes and he does that for us."

Or at least he has since he shook off a hamstring strain - "the longest injury I've ever had" - to make his Premiership debut for the club of his boyhood heart, scoring against Derby on 25 October. Things would be promising if only Liverpool could lose the capacity to shoot themselves in the foot.

"It's always difficult away in Europe, but when we saw Strasbourg at home we couldn't believe we had lost 3-0 to them in France," Leonhardsen said. "We were a bit unlucky that night, but that's easy to say afterwards."

And Barnsley? "We just can't afford to lose at home to teams like them," he replied. "We've made it very difficult for ourselves. If we'd won that match we'd have been right up behind the leaders. We'd have been looking good going into



Liverpool's Oyvind Leonhardsen: 'Consistency has been a problem for years and if we knew why we'd probably be champions'

Photograph: Empics

## Reluctant caretakers simply cannot clean up

Poor old Chris Hughton, he was even less in demand than a Spurs season ticket on Monday after "his" side had succumbed to Crystal Palace (apparently, several fans nailed their season tickets to the club shop wall after the game; having drowned their sorrows they returned to find someone had nicked the nails but left the tickets).

The Spurs caretaker manager arrived belatedly at the post-match press conference to find only the tea ladies left to hear what he had to say, which couldn't have been much since he was only in the job 24 hours.

Caretaker managers are invariably thrust reluctantly under the spotlight - Tony Parkes, for example, looks as though saying boo to a goose would be beyond him - and Hughton, a capable full-back in his day but never one to court the limelight, resembled a rabbit caught in headlights when quizzed beforehand about his team selection.

There was a sense of déjà vu about the whole affair since it was exactly three years ago that the former Spurs defender Steve Perryman was given one game in charge to stake his claim on the post vacated by Ossie Ardiles.

In the event, Spurs lost 2-0 and a disillusioned Perryman left to coach in Norway. But who'd be a caretaker manager anyway. It's got to be the most undesirable job in football because let's face it, a caretaker manager is onto a loser whichever way you look at it. Win - and it is down to the players; he'd inherited a decent enough team anyway. Lose - and he obviously wasn't up to the job in the first place.

Not that either scenario bothered caretaker manager extraordinaire Parkes. He took charge at Blackburn after Ray Harford's resignation last October with Rovers rock bottom and without a Premiership win. By May, they were a creditable 13th having lost just eight games. Had Parkes been up for the job he'd have had a good case.

But he wasn't; he'd made that clear from the outset, unlike John Hollins who has taken every possible opportunity to broadcast his desire for the vacant manager's seat at Queen's Park Rangers, which he's currently keeping warm.

Unfortunately for Hollins, QPR have been linked with every unattached manager going (as well as plenty of attached ones) so he might have to be content with the caretaker



OLIVIA  
BLAIR  
ON THE  
SHORT STRAW  
DRAWN BY  
STAND-IN  
MANAGERS

manager's job at Harchester Rovers in Sky's new *Dream Team* soap now that Ron Atkinson has abandoned acting in favour of real life drama at Sheffield Wednesday where he has as his right-hand man the season's most successful caretaker manager (to date).

Peter Shreeves, for whom the phrase right-hand man was surely invented, was in the Hillsborough hot seat when Wednesday thrashed Bolton 5-1 after a disastrous run which had prompted David Pleat's dismissal. While not wanting to take anything away from Shreeves, the reality is

that the Wednesday players were under less pressure to perform than when Pleat was in the firing line.

Ditto those Nottingham Forest players who hadn't managed to win in 17 games for Frank Clark last season yet beat then second-placed Arsenal in Stuart Pearce's first game as caretaker manager. It obviously had something to do with Psycho's leadership qualities, but not that much.

Clark, of course, went to Maine Road where one of his first acts was to hand P45s to several of the backroom staff, among them the club stalwart Tony Book. The manager for five years (from 1974-79), he was also caretaker manager three times, bailing City out after Ron Saunders left in 1974; in 1989 when Mel Machin went; and again in 1990 following Howard Kendall's departure, prompting a former team-mate to say: "When the holocaust comes I want to be standing next to Bookie." Perhaps Book's motto should have been "Once more into the breach..." since this is Manchester City after all.

Perhaps the highest profile caretaker manager's job of them all went to another former City manager, Joe Mercer, who was given seven

games at England's helm in May 1974 before Don Revie was appointed. Mercer's record was a creditable one - won three, drawn three, lost one - but that defeat came against Scotland in the Home Championships.

One thing, however, characterises all caretaker managers - they know there is a replacement waiting in the wings, or even in the stands, as Christian Gross was at White Hart Lane on Monday. At least Gross stayed there; two days earlier Keith Burkinshaw was in charge of Aberdeen (where he's director of football) for a game but found his expertise somewhat undermined by the appearance in the dug-out at half-time of the Dons' manager-in-waiting, Alex Miller. Even with two managers overseeing events, Aberdeen could only manage a 1-1 draw against Dunfermline.

But then Spurs legend Danny Blanchflower reckoned that great teams don't need managers, caretaker or otherwise. "Brazil," he said, "won the World Cup playing exhilarating football with a manager they'd had for three weeks, and what about Real Madrid at their greatest? You can't even remember who the manager was."

## Flat season that makes you cry into your pint

A season is like a drinking session and this one has so far brought on a severe case of delirium tremens. Just as it takes the correct personnel for a good drinking session, so in the same way, at the start of each season we look to our team and ask: have we the players who can do the job?

The second requirement is good beer, preferably slow-settling pints of Guinness. The football equivalent is skill. It is also essential that there are no ulterior motives beyond enjoying a good session. In terms of a team, what we are talking about here is commitment.

Most importantly, a good session needs no time restrictions or any other limitations. It must have the potential for development. So with a football team - provided there is some sign of progress, at least we have hope.

So how has it been at Manchester City so far, in terms of personnel, skill, commitment and potential?

Lee Bradbury looked likely to solve our scoring problem. Gerard Wickens promised to be a creative force in midfield, and Tony Vaughan was rated one of the most promising defenders in the First Division.

But no - Bradbury and Vaughan are the footballing equivalent of the lad who

starts puking after the first pint and spends the evening on the porcelain 'phone.

Wickens is the character who starts with a good few yards, gets maudlin and withdraws for the rest of the night staring into his pint.

Georgi Kinkladze is the man who has a wealth of anecdotes but who, because no one laughs at his first joke, refuses to tell any more because his audience is not worthy of him.

The personnel are sadly

FAN'S EYE  
VIEW  
NO 234  
MANCHESTER  
CITY  
BY  
JOE O'NEILL

deficient. What about that vital lubricant, skill?

Kinkladze is the freshly brewed pint, lovingly coaxed from the pumps. But he, too, is temperamental and the slightest unfavourable condition can disturb his delicate equilibrium. If things are not right, he turns into one of those alcopops, all flashy outer show with little substance. His work-rate has compared unfavourably with that of Homer Simpson.

Tony Scully and Wickens apart, the skill level of the others is the equivalent of mild into which a disreputable landlord has dumped the previous night's slops.

And commitment? Paul Dickov is exempt from any criticism because his dedication to the cause is beyond question. Wickens, Kit Symons, Scully and Barry Conlon cannot be faulted for effort. But the rest make things go with a swing in the same way that a pickling jar of cirrhosis-riddled liver would aid the sale of hard liquor.

Is there any hope? Any pattern of play developing? Any emerging stars?

Scully and Conlon have potential, Michael Brown and Jeff Whitley have promise, but the team are changed every week, tactics altered virtually every match.

Denis Smith, the manager of Oxford United, said a point against City was a poor result. At first outraged, I realised that the League table and the match itself showed that he is right. That, more than the fact that such giants as Stockport, Crewe, Bury and Bradford are above us, is the true indication of our present position.

This session has already become a wake. This season, young as it is, is already dead.



# 27/FOOTBALL

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 1997

## Self-styled elite obliged to justify their grand claims

Phil Shaw looks at a weekend of Premiership action that presents the Big Five with vastly differing challenges, while Nick Harris (below) analyses the programme match by match.

Five years after they helped to form the Big Five and became prime movers in setting up the Premiership, the powers of Merseyside and north London tangle this weekend. Portentous as the games at Goodison Park and Highbury may prove, a home victory at Old Trafford would strengthen the suspicion that Manchester United are now in a league of their own: the Big One.

By virtually any criterion - resources, revenue, squad depth, silverware, support - United have left their rivals standing. The only area in which their pre-eminence is not currently pronounced is points. A lead of one offers second-placed Blackburn Rovers the opportunity to take over at the top by beating them tomorrow.

Unfortunately for all who prefer a race to a procession, Alex Ferguson's team give the impression of being ready to accelerate away from their place in the Champions' League quarter-finals is secure. Even when amassing 26 goals in six games, United have seemed to be holding something in reserve.

Blackburn, in contrast, were stretched to the limit in scraping past Everton and Chelsea, and will need to scale new heights just to stay with the champions. They have not won at United for 35 years and boast a solitary, Alan Shearer-inspired success in the 17 ensuing encounters.

They have, however, run them sufficiently close in the fixture (two draws, two 1-0 defeats in the last four) to en-

courage optimism. What is more, Tim Flowers is playing better than any keeper in the country, and Chris Sutton is in the kind of form that could exploit Gary Pallister's increasing vulnerability.

But even allowing for the tactical nous of Roy Hodgson, who is arguably outstripping Arsène Wenger as the most astute coach to come to England from abroad, it may not be enough. Hodgson is taking only his 16th Premiership match, against a mere 443 for Ferguson, and is likely to be left to reflect on the afternoon as part of his learning curve.

No such luxuries for Howard Kendall. Before Everton overcame Liverpool, he said the derby was "the easy one - what happens afterwards

is the key". What has happened is a sequence of defeats which mean they receive Tottenham as the bottom club.

Everton's incentive is not unlike Blackburn's. By seeing off Spurs they could trade places with them, and on Christian Gross' debut as manager to boot. The Swiss showed a historical bent when he flourished names like Harry Hotspur and the Earl of Northumberland, yet he may be unaware of positive auguries from the more recent past.

In the autumn of 1958, Bill Nicholson took charge of an ailing Spurs for the first time... against Everton. They triumphed by no less than 10-4 and within three years the Double came to White Hart Lane. Peter Shreeves also

launched his reign with an astounding victory over Everton, 4-1 away on the first day of 1984-85, even if it was Kendall who won the title.

The way Everton's season has gone, survival would represent success for a club whose badge decrees that nothing but the best is good enough. Anything less than three points may provoke protests against the chairman, Peter Johnson, who dug himself into a deeper hole with ill-judged criticism of supporters this week.

By their neighbours' standards, Liverpool are hardly in crisis. But Anfield compares itself with Old Trafford: humiliation by Barnsley left them nine points adrift, effectively turning tomorrow's match at Arsenal and the visit of Uni-

ted a week today into 180 minutes which could make or break both their season and Roy Evans' managerial tenure.

Arsenal, having sandwiched a fortuitous win over United between surrenders at Derby and Sheffield, also face a test of their resilience. Dennis Bergkamp's return could be the spark they need - Ian Wright looked forlorn without him - whereas Liverpool have Robbie Fowler and Paul Ince suspended when they need them most.

While the financial clout of Chelsea and Newcastle would conceivably put them in an updated Big Five, only by winning the big one, the championship, would their membership look anything more than transitory. Chelsea, who take on Derby in a match likely to have a strong

Italian influence, crept into third place in midweek, but with five defeats already can afford to lose three more at most to have any hope of finishing top.

Newcastle's could move to within a point of the leaders if they won their games in hand. Their prospects of doing so might be brighter if Kenny Dalglish, knowing he had lost Alan Shearer, had not hastily offloaded Les Ferdinand and Peter Beardsley.

Crystal Palace's failure to win at home since April offers Newcastle hope on their retreat from Catalonia. Nevertheless, to study Palace's away record, which is comfortably the best in the Premiership, is to be reassured in this era of self-proclaimed elites that small can still be beautiful.

### Barnsley v Leeds

Barnsley manager Danny Wilson has a fully-fit squad to choose from for the first time this season, with the exception of long-term casualties Neil Thompson and Steve Davis. Winger Andy Liddell has recovered from an ankle injury and is fit. Wilson is likely to name an unchanged line-up for the Yorkshire derby from the side that beat Liverpool 1-0 last week, although Adie Moses could make way in midfield for Jovo Bosancic. Barnsley are looking for only their second home win of the season.

Leeds will again be without captain David Hopkin and teenage striker Harry Kewell. Midfielder Hopkin is serving the second game of a three-match ban after accruing five bookings, while Kewell is on international duty in Australia for the World Cup play-off second leg with Iran. Teenage goalkeeper Paul Robinson will again act as understudy for Nigel Martyn as Mark Beeny remains unavailable with a hamstring injury. Leeds could move, at least temporarily, into the top three for the first time this season if they win.

### Bolton v Wimbledon

Chris Fairclough could make a Premiership return after a seven-month absence for Bolton today. Full-back Fairclough, who suffered knee ligament damage on the last day of last season, was Wanderers' only present last season and has undergone a lengthy recovery programme since Bolton re-entered the top flight. Scott Sellers returns after a three-match suspension, but defender Gerry Taggart is still serving a ban. Dean Holdsworth faces his former club for the first time.

Wimbledon face a Bolton side that beat them in the Coca-Cola Cup earlier this season. Midfielder Robbie Earle, who lost his place in the side when he went on international duty with Jamaica, may return to the starting line-up. If he does, it is likely to be in the place of Ceri Hughes, who is due to start a three-match ban next week. Defender Alan Kimble may also start after recovering from a hamstring injury, while Efan Ekoku is hoping to have recovered from a twisted ankle. Norwegian Stole Solbakken could play.

### Chelsea v Derby

Ruud Gullit's squad system will be tested today. Eddie Newton (broken toe) and Graeme Le Saux (arm) are both definitely out. Steve Clarke (calf), Mark Nicholls (groin), Andy Myers (heel) and Tore Andre Flo (foot) are all on the doubtful list, although Frenchman Bernard Lamboire is available again after suspension. Frank Leboeuf, who missed Wednesday's 2-0 win over Everton with a groin problem, should be fit, and Mark Hughes is likely to partner Gianfranco Zola up front with Gianluca Vialli reverting to the bench.

Derby captain Igor Stimac will not return for the Rams until next week after nearly two months out with an acute back injury. The 30-year-old Croatian defender was back in training this week but is not ready to replace the Dane Jacob Laursen, who will be out for several weeks with a knee injury. With Stimac's return delayed, Dean Yates will make his first Premiership appearance of the season after recovering from a knee tendon injury. Paulo Vanchope will again lead the attack that helped beat Coventry 3-1 last week.

### Coventry v Leicester

Coventry's Darren Huckerby is back to full fitness for today. Former England Under-21 striker Huckerby has been struggling for weeks with ankle and thigh injuries but is now fully recovered. Willie Boland is expected to replace Paul Williams in midfield while David Burrows keeps his place despite being on the verge of a move to Sheffield Wednesday. Coventry are looking to avoid the same result as their last Midlands derby - last week's 3-1 defeat at Derby. Undefeated at home this season, they have drawn six of eight at Highfield Road. Striker Emile Heskey is suspended for Leicester. Midfielder Garry Parker has not trained all week due to the illness of his prematurely born daughter, and is very unlikely to play. Pontus Kaarmark is suffering from a mystery illness which could open up a place in the starting line-up for youngster Stuart Wilson. This Midlands derby has place under a superstition Leicester will hope to end - Coventry midfielder Gary McAllister has never been on a losing side against the Foxes in the seven years since he left Filbert Street.

### Crystal Palace v Newcastle

Andy Roberts needed stitches in his instep following Monday's 1-0 victory over Spurs at White Hart Lane, but he should play with a painkilling injection. Michele Padovano suffered a dead leg in that game but trained yesterday and is fit. Steve Coppell is likely to name an unchanged side as Palace still seek their first home win of the season (apart from the "away" win against Wimbledon on their shared ground). Neil Smith is one possible change, available again after suspension, while Jamie Smith may be recalled after a ban.

Newcastle are likely to be without centre-back Darren Peacock who injured an ankle in the Champions' League defeat at Barcelona, while captain Rob Lee might recover from a virus which kept him out of that game. Faustino Asprilla is still short of match fitness and unlikely to feature, but John Beresford and Steve Watson seem to have recovered from knocks. Newcastle will be lifted by the return of Northern Ireland winger Keith Gillespie who missed out in Barcelona, serving a one-match ban after yellow cards in Europe.

### ...And statistics

#### How the first blow usually leads to a knockout

Managers often talk about the importance of the first goal. No wonder: statistics show that in recent seasons there has been only a one in 10 chance of a Premier League side scoring first and going on to lose the match.

Over the years the figures have been remarkably consistent, with between 10 and 11 per cent of matches being won by sides that have gone behind. Last season only 33 out of 380 Premiership matches finished this way.

Not surprisingly, the chances of teams recovering to win are even smaller when playing away from home. This season only four teams have won away games after going behind: West Ham at Barnsley on the opening day of the season, and Wimbledon at Barnsley, Arsenal at Chelsea and Derby at Sheffield Wednesday all in September.

In contrast, three Premiership matches last weekend alone saw home sides fight back to win after trailing, Aston Villa beating Southampton and Leeds producing a stirring revival to beat West Ham 3-1.

The pattern goes back many years. As long ago as the 1964-65 season the Foot-

ball Association analysed 1,000 matches to discover the effect of the first goal. The survey showed that 10 per cent of home teams lost games after taking the lead, while nearly a quarter of away sides did so.

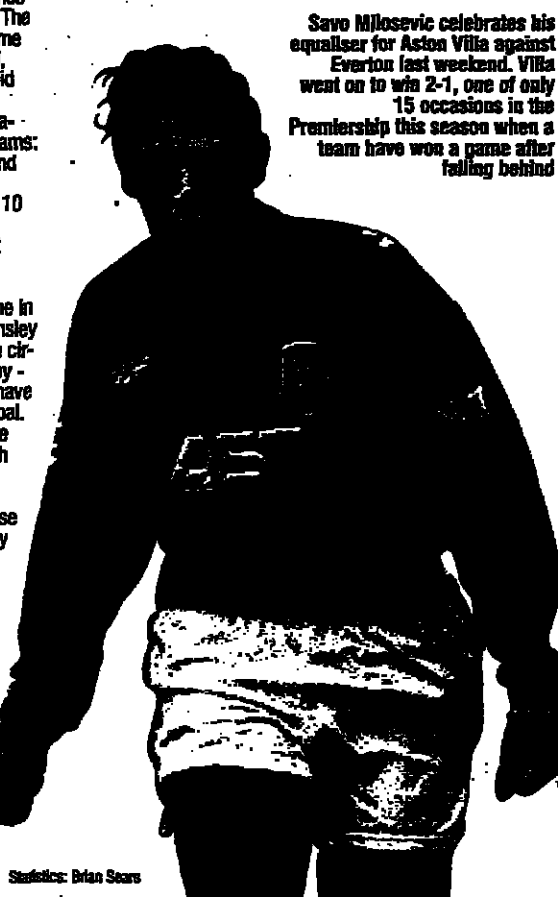
Of the 133 "first goals" scored this season, 76 have been scored by home teams: 58 have gone on to win, 13 to draw and only four to lose. Of the 57 scored by away teams, 36 have gone on to win, 10 to draw and 11 to lose.

West Ham are the team with the worst record for hanging on to a lead. Harry Redknapp's side have lost three of the seven matches in which they have gone in front this season. Chelsea, Derby, Barnsley and Everton have all lost twice in such circumstances, though Chelsea and Derby - who meet today at Stamford Bridge - have the best records for scoring the first goal.

No clues for guessing which team have never lost a Premiership game in which they have taken the lead. Manchester United have played 217 Premiership matches and have never gone on to lose a game - home or away - in which they have gone in front.

#### Effect of the first goal: Premiership 1997-98

Games played	Times lead taken	Goals on to lose	Draw	Matches won after conceding first goal
Chelsea	15	12	3	2
Derby	14	10	4	2
Blackburn	13	10	3	1
Liverpool	14	9	5	0
Manchester United	15	8	7	0
Arsenal	15	8	5	2
Newcastle	12	7	5	0
Crystal Palace	14	7	5	0
West Ham	15	6	9	0
Leeds	15	6	6	2
Leicester	15	5	8	0
Wimbledon	15	5	4	1
Sheff Wed	15	5	4	1
Barnsley	15	6	4	0
Coventry	15	5	5	0
Sutton	15	5	4	1
Sheff Wed	15	4	5	1
Bolton	14	4	2	1
Everton	15	3	2	0
Aston Villa	15	3	0	2



Stoke City's Brian Stiles

#### Taking the lead: the last three seasons

Games	Times scored first goal	Wins (Percentage in brackets)	Draw	Loss
1997-98	146 (133)	95 (72)	23 (17)	15 (11)
Of which home side scored first goal	76	59 (78)	13 (17)	4 (5)
Of which away side scored first goal	57	36 (63)	10 (18)	11 (19)
1996-97	380 (338)	228 (60)	78 (20)	33 (9)
1995-96	380 (353)	244 (64)	71 (20)	33 (9)

### FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Form	Upcoming matches
2 Blackburn	15	30	+4	5	2	1	17	9	3	4	0	10	4	WWDWW	4 Dec Bolton (H); 13 Dec Arsenal (A); 20 Dec West Ham (H); 26 Dec Sheff Wed (A)
4 Arsenal	15	27	+3	5	2	0	18	3	2	4	2	12	4	DDLWL	4 Dec Newcastle (A); 13 Dec Blackburn (H); 22 Dec Wimbledon (A); 26 Dec Leicester (H)
6 Derby	15	23	+8	5	1	0	17	5	2	0	5	10	4	DLWLW	4 Dec West Ham (H); 14 Dec Bolton (A); 17 Dec Newcastle (A); 20 Dec Crystal Palace (H)
8 Liverpool	15	22	+11	5	0	2	18	6	1	4	2	7	8	LWDWL	4 Dec Man Utd (H); 13 Dec Crystal Palace (A); 20 Dec Coventry (H); 26 Dec Leeds (H)
10 C Palace	15	19	-1	0	3	3	4	9	5	1	2	10	6	LDWDW	3 Dec West Ham (A); 13 Dec Leicester (A); 17 Dec Liverpool (H); 20 Dec Derby (A)
12 Aston Villa	15	18	-6	3	1	3	8	12	2	2	4	7	9	LDLDW	4 Dec Coventry (H); 13 Dec Man Utd (A); 20 Dec Southampton (H); 26 Dec Tottenham (H)
14 Southampton	15	16	-5	4	1	3	8	10	1	0	6	5	13	LWWWL	7 Dec Wimbledon (A); 13 Dec Leicester (H); 20 Dec Aston Villa (A); 26 Dec Crystal Palace (A)
16 Sheff Wed	15	15	-10	4	1	3	5	12	0	2	5	10	23	LLWW	8 Dec Barnsley (H); 13 Dec West Ham (A); 20 Dec Chelsea (H); 26 Dec Blackburn (H)
18 Bolton	15	13	-11	1	4	1	3	3	1	3	4	7	18	LWDLD	Monday Newcastle (H); 4 Dec Blackburn (A); 14 Dec Derby (H); 20 Dec Leeds (A)
20 Everton	15	12	-9	3	1	3	11	11	0	2	6	5	14	WDLWL	4 Dec Leeds (A); 13 Dec Wimbledon (H); 20 Dec Leicester (A); 26 Dec Man Utd (A)

#### FAIR PLAY LEAGUE

Rank	Clubs	Red	Yellow	Pts	Av
1	G. Willard	5	3	24	4.8
2	S. Dunn	1	23	28	5.60
3	M. Reed	5	1	23	4.60
4	P. Dutton	10	2	42	8.40
5	G. Poll	3	30	45	9.00
6	D. Ellery	1	32	37	7.40
7	J. Wright	9	2	31	6.20
8	G. Ashby	3	1	31	6.20
9	P. Alcock	7	0	30	6.00
10	G. Barber	8	1	29	5.80
11	P. Jones	7	2	29	5.80
12	M. Bodenham	7	0	27	5.40
13	N. Barry	8	1	24	4.80
14	D. Gallagher	9	22	22	4.40
15	M. Riley	7	1	19	3.80
16	U. Farrie	8	0	27	5.40
17	A. Wills	8	1	21	4.20
18	K. Burge	8	0	23	4.60
19	S. Lodge	9	0	19	3.80

#### UNFAIR PLAY LEAGUE

Rank	Clubs	Red	Yellow	Pts	Av
1	Bolton	14	3	30	6.00
2	Everton	15	3	27	5.40
3	Chelsea	15	3	27	5.40
4	Arsenal	15	1	34	6.80
5	Sheff Wed	15	2	26	5.20
6	Coventry	15	1	31	6.20
7	Blackburn	15	2	35	7.00
8	C. Palace	15	1	29	5.80
9	Leeds	15	1	28	5.60
10	West Ham	15	0	31	6.20
11	Liverpool	14	1	22	4.40
12	Derby	15	0	29	5.80
13	Newcastle	12	1	16	3.20
14	Tottenham	15	1	20	4.00
15	Southampton	15	0	25	5.00
16	Man Utd	15	0	24	4.80
17	Wimbledon	15	0	24	4.80
18	Aston Villa	15	1	16	3.20
19	Leicester	15	1	17	3.40
20	Barnsley	15	0	21	4.20

#### LEADING SCORERS

1	Harrison (West Ham)	14
2	Cole (Manchester United)	13
3	Bergkamp (Arsenal)	12
4	Sutton (Blackburn)	11
5	Davies (Southampton)	10
	Wentworth (Derby)	10
	Vaia (Chelsea)	10
8	Balano (Derby)	9
	Wright (Arsenal)	9
	Sherrington (Manchester United)	9
	Wallace (Leeds)	9
12	Dublin (Coventry)	8
	Gallagher (Blackburn)	8
	Fowler (Liverpool)	8
15	Carbone (Sheffield Wednesday)	7

### Everton v Tottenham

Everton are likely to give a debut to Norwegian Under-21 international goalkeeper Thomas Myrhe, signed this week from Viking Stavanger. Neville Southall is struggling with a back injury. Howard Kendall must also decide whether to recall promising youngsters Danny Cadamarteri and John Ooster to the starting line-up. The newcomer from Sheffield United, Mitch Ward, is likely to keep a midfield place after his debut in the 2-0 midweek defeat at Chelsea, while fellow ex-Blade Carl Tiler may be given a debut today.

Spurs are likely to drop David Ginola, after the 1-0 home defeat by Crystal Palace last Monday. Christian Gross' preferred 4-4-2 system is less than ideal for Ginola's preferred free role behind the strikers. Strikers Chris Armstrong and Jose Dominguez are still injured, leaving an opening alongside Les Ferdinand for either Steffen Versen or Rory Allen. Gary Mabbutt and Clive Wilson have been recalled to the squad, together with Ruel Fox and Colin Calderwood. Spurs have lost four Premiership matches in a row, as have Everton.

### Southampton v Sheff Wed

Southampton have Egil Olsen available, probably as a substitute, following a six-week absence with an ankle problem. Saints manager Dave Jones has a fully fit squad to choose from, but new signing Bjorn Johansen will not arrive from Norway until next week. The Saints are hoping to recover from two defeats, against Newcastle and Chelsea in the Premiership and Coca-Cola Cup respectively. Jones will probably start with David Hirst and Kevin Davies up front. Sheffield Wednesday manager Ron Atkinson is likely to name an unchanged line-up from the side that won last weekend 2-0 over Arsenal. A swap deal involving Coventry's David Burrows and Welsh international Mark Pemberton failed to beat yesterday's noon deadline, but although Pemberton is still available, Atkinson has drafted Lee Briscoe into the squad. He could turn to the 22-year-old instead if he chooses to omit Pemberton. Atkinson is reunited with two former Owls who have played under his management: Carlton Palmer and David Hirst.

### West Ham v Aston Villa

West Ham are not yet able to recall former Newcastle striker Paul Nixon following surgery to repair a torn groin muscle, but he is nearly fit. Abou Samassi or Paulo Alves will continue to deputise. Harry Redknapp must decide whether to keep faith with fit-again goalkeeper Lukic Mirkoski who returned from injury at Leeds on Sunday, as a surprise replacement for in-form Canadian Gary Forster, but was blamed for two late goals which produced West Ham's defeat. Rio Ferdinand will be recalled after a calf strain.

Aston Villa's Ian Taylor reverts to being a spectator after his role in the 2-1 UEFA Cup defeat at Steaua Bucharest on Tuesday, serving a three-match ban. In the absence of Taylor, manager Brian Little is likely to move versatile Portuguese international Fernando Nelson back into midfield with Gary Charles slotting in at full-back. Little will also check on the fitness of Yugoslav international midfielder Sasa Curcic who has been out of the squad for the last two games because of a virus. He could win a place on the bench.

### Arsenal v Liverpool

Dennis Bergkamp and Emmanuel Petit both return from suspensions for Arsenal but Ray Parlour is out with a knee injury. Patrick Vieira is injured and Steve Bould is suspended. Arsène Wenger is now likely to revert to a 4-4-2 line-up with Martin Keown and Tony Adams in defence and Gilles Grimandi left out. Options to replace Parlour are Stephen Hughes or Luis Boa Morte, which, in either case, would mean switching winger Marc Overmars from left to right. Patrick Berger could lose his place in the tomorrow's Liverpool side. Manager Roy Evans is likely to include a more defensive midfielder man to play alongside Jamie Redknapp after the Berger filled the role in the 1-0 home defeat by Barnsley last week in place of Paul Ince. Ince and Robbie Fowler are still both suspended, so the inclusion of either Danny Murphy, Jamie Carragher or Micky Thomas is a possibility. Rob Jones is still unfit. Mark Wright, Phil Babb, Carragher, Thomas, Steve Harkness and Neil Ruddock all made successful comebacks from injury in the reserves on Thursday.

### Man Utd v Blackburn

Manchester United face the only team to have denied them the Premiership title since its inception with one key player absent, as Paul Scholes begins a three-match suspension. Ronny Johnsen is likely to slot into midfield, with Henning Berg replacing him in the heart of the defence. Philip Neville complained of double vision after the victory over 3-0 Champions' League win over Kosice on Thursday and is the only injury doubt, although Alex Ferguson said he would be fit to play.

Blackburn will again be without Colin Hendry and Martin Dahlin for tomorrow's top-of-the-table encounter. The international duo are still out with long-term injuries but there was good news for manager Roy Hodgson when both Kevin Gallacher and Tore Pedersen were both back in training and available for selection yesterday. Chris Sutton's new contract with Blackburn Rovers will keep him at the club for five more years and he will be hoping to make his first repayment on the investment by adding to his season's 11 goals.



# SPORT

Saturday 29 November 1997



England show they are all in line during their preparation for today's match against South Africa at Twickenham, the third game of their four-Test autumn programme

Photograph: David Ashdown

## Dallaglio's rallying cry for English ambition

Lawrence Dallaglio's colourful description of Gary Teichmann's Springbok team as a "wounded animal in frenzy" paints an accurate picture of the danger facing England at Twickenham this afternoon.

Chris Hewett says the South Africans are back up to speed after a cathartic spell in the rugby union slow lane.

Ian McGeechan, the Lions coach on the high veldt last summer, famously depicted his victorious team's style of play as "15-man rugby without the ball". If England attempt to pull a similar stunt at Twickenham this afternoon, they will drown in a sea of Springbok points; to beat

the world champions with a strategy based on hostile tackling and flawless goal-kicking, you need Scott Gibbs and Neil Jenkins rather than Nick Greenstock and Mike Catt.

Besides, these South Africans are a very different kettle of trouble to the strangely one-dimensional unit on which the Lions poured lashings of cold water in Cape Town and Durban. Nick Mallett, the hugely capable philosopher king from deepest Hertfordshire who succeeded Carel du Plessis as national coach in September, has hit the ground running by restoring a sense of purpose and responsibility to the rich and diverse talents at his disposal. As Jake White, the Springboks' technical advisor, said this week: "We know where we're heading now. We're heading towards the World Cup in 1999."

Roger Uttley, the England manager, also had something to say on the subject yesterday

and it was not calculated to bring comfort and serenity to the home dressing room. "Psychologically, the Lions' victory in the summer may well work against us, because I get the feeling it has made the Boks more focused than ever," he admitted. Focused enough to stick 50-odd points on the French in Paris last weekend. Focused enough to go after Lawrence Dallaglio, Richard Hill and the other English Lions today with the whiff of revenge in their nostrils.

If expectations of an English victory over the All Blacks at Old Trafford were so low as to border on the subterranean, they are scarcely any higher this time round. Martin Johnson's aggression will be badly missed; if the Leicester lock's partiality towards the occasional cheap shot has cost him a cap, it has also cost the English engine room its single most valuable piece of heavy machinery. Neither does Phil de Glanville's absence help

the cause. The Bath centre may not be the quickest thing on two legs, but he tackled himself to a standstill in Manchester last weekend and was relishing the prospect of giving Henry Honiball, Dick Muir and Andre Snyman some of the same.

Much depends on the contribution of Darren Garforth, the Leicester tight-head prop, and the reshaped back row of Dallaglio, Hill and Neil Back. If Garforth fails to neutralise the mighty Os du Randt by fair means or foul - Paul Wallace, the smiling Irish Lion, chose the latter course last summer and somehow got away with it - the English scrum will go back so quickly that the threequarters will find themselves calling moves from the middle tier of the north stand. If he does the business, though, the loose trio may well ask the Boks an unanswerable question or two.

Dallaglio was in majestic form against New Zealand and

England require something similar from their captain on this occasion. Sensibly, he is not even contemplating a Lions-style exercise in barricade construction. "There were times during the summer when the Lions felt more comfortable without the ball than with it," he conceded. "If England can show the same ambition in attack as the Lions showed in defence, we're in for a cracking game of rugby."

"It's about results, yes, but it's about performance, too. We want to create scoring opportunities as well as deny those opportunities to the opposition."

For Clive Woodward and the rest of the England back-room team - a unit strengthened yesterday by the confirmation of Phil Larder, the former Great Britain rugby league coach, in a full-time advisory role - victory over the South Africans would be pure nectar. Thanks to the

unprecedented demands of this four-Test autumn programme, the new regime is still on honeymoon. No European side has ever been exposed to such a mountainous challenge, let alone a young and inexperienced English outfit still feeling its way in the big wide world. However, a second successive defeat after an unsatisfying draw would send just a little unease seeping into the inner sanctum.

For the long-term sake of England's national team, it is vital that Woodward holds his nerve; retains his vision and continues to back what is obviously a bold and adventurous line in rugby judgement. But for the sake of the coach's short-term sanity, he could do with the rub of the green. Will Dallaglio and company win him some breathing space this afternoon? For heaven's sake, don't bet your pension on it.

Wales heed a warrior, Page 21

### ENGLAND v SOUTH AFRICA

at Twickenham	
M Perry	Bath
J Bredley	Newcastle
W Greenwood	Leicester
P de Glanville	Bath
D Rees	Sale
M Catt	Bath
M Dawson	Northampton
J Leonard	Harlequins
R Cockerill	Leicester
D Garforth	Leicester
G Grewcock	Saracens
G Archer	Newcastle
L Dallaglio	Wasps, capt
R Hill	Saracens
N Back	Leicester
I5 P Montgomery	W Province
I4 J Small	W Province
I3 A Strydom	N Transvaal
I2 D Muir	W Province
I1 P Rossouw	W Province
I0 H Honiball	Natal
9 W Swanepoel	Free State
1 O du Randt	Free State
2 J Dalton	Gauteng
3 A Garvey	Natal
4 M Andrews	Natal
5 K Otto	N Transvaal
6 A Aidsen	W Province
8 G Teichmann	Natal, capt
7 A Venter	Free State

Replacements: 16 P Grayson (Northampton); 17 A Healey (Leicester); 18 G Rowntree (Leicester); 19 M Ragan (Bath); 20 S Shaw (Wasps); 21 C Sheehy (Wasps).  
Replacements: 16 J Swart (W Province); 17 J de Beer (Free State); 18 D van Zyl (Pretoria); 19 B Stead (W Province); 20 W Meyer (Free State); 21 N Druwe (Free State).  
Referee: C Hawke (New Zealand). Kick-off: 2.0 (Sky Sports 2).

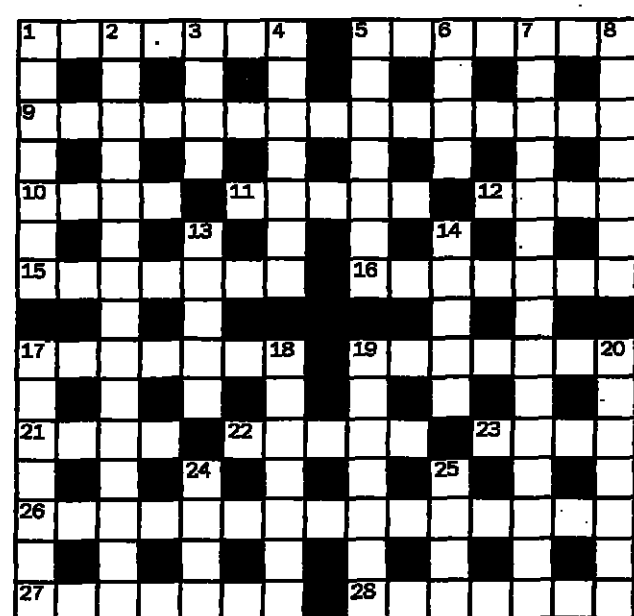
### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3469, Saturday 29 November

By Phi

ACROSS

DOWN



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution

SLANGING MATCH  
A A Y N E N O S  
PUZZLED RETOUCH  
P Y O I E R O  
ROBIN ALABASTER  
E O Y Y Y  
HANDS AGREEMENT  
E E I G I R M W E  
NOSTALGIC SPASM  
S L R N P  
UNPLEASANT TRACE  
E A M E N A T R  
LIBYANS INCLINE  
E I T O N I O D  
INTERROGATING

- 1 Landing-site boss is going round perimeter (7)
- 5 Spoil nearly everything in a marriage (7)
- 9 Indifferent attitude towards computers etc? (4,2,5,2)
- 10 Dislike hurry, wasting seconds (4)
- 11 High-class stockist's first desire (5)
- 12 Undertake exercises to get drug info (4)
- 15 Those people accepting a charge for treatment (7)
- 16 Many set for release in this? (7)
- 17 Star, not quite elderly, resident in European city (7)
- 19 Redesignated University with help of prospective worker (7)
- 21 Time to copy a cassette (4)
- 22 Upset most of Yankee country (5)
- 23 Small creatures surrounding one in battle (4)
- 26 No-one's watching this art coalesce, possibly (3,5,2,5)
- 27 Job on island for delivery agent (7)
- 28 Affectionate, glowing family (7)
- 1 Chopper engineer starts to examine turbine (7)
- 2 Very quick to take to an audience? (4,3,8)
- 3 Very well-groomed, with superior cut (4)
- 4 Opening for the men in party system (7)
- 5 Tune has mother hiding unexpected smile (7)
- 6 Nothing to be found in computer memory range (4)
- 7 Drunk's threat to clothing? (3,5,3,4)
- 8 A chance event left China powerless (7)
- 13 Child, one locked in grainstore (5)
- 14 Cut tail of blue bird (5)
- 17 Where to get more fuel? Coal-mine's best (3-4)
- 18 Subdues member of new family (7)
- 19 Year one's brought in to cut a heap of grass (7)
- 20 Criminal leader getting round. Yard on various levels (7)
- 24 Make for the capital of Majorca (4)
- 25 Observe first of cases in hospital (4)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hand-packed copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: O Stronachs, Coleraine; M Ripplin, Market Drayton; D Bazeildine, Austwick; B Jones, London WC1; M Hicks, London NW2.

### THIRTEEN PAGES OF SPORT START ON PAGE 16

**Farewell Peter O'Sullivan:** Greg Wood pays tribute as the voice of racing hangs up his microphone, page 18

**Hello Bjorn Borg:** John Roberts on the former Wimbledon champion, who competes in London next week, page 22

**Welcome Back Chris Hewett:** talks to Neil Back on his return to the England rugby union team, page 21

### IN MONDAY'S 20-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

Adam Hoolioake, captain of the England cricket team playing in Sharjah next week, talks to Derek Pringle

Chris Hewett and David Llewellyn report from Twickenham on England v South Africa; Tim Glover and Ken Jones report from Wembley on Wales v New Zealand

Matches of the day: Phil Shaw and Guy Hodgson watch Manchester United take on Blackburn; Glenn Moore sees Arsenal versus Liverpool

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford and Hallowood Avenue, Chalfont. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370.

Saturday 29 November 1997

Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office



LIFE IS IN THE MOVEMENT  
**ZENITH**  
Swiss Watchmakers since 1865

Available at selected branches of the Goldsmiths Group, one of the country's leading quality jewellers with over 125 branches nationwide.

GOLDSMITHS WALKER & HALL  
THE MARK OF A FINE JEWELLER

FOR YOUR NEAREST STOCKIST CALL FREE ON 0800 GOLDSMITHS (0800 465376)

سكنا من الامم

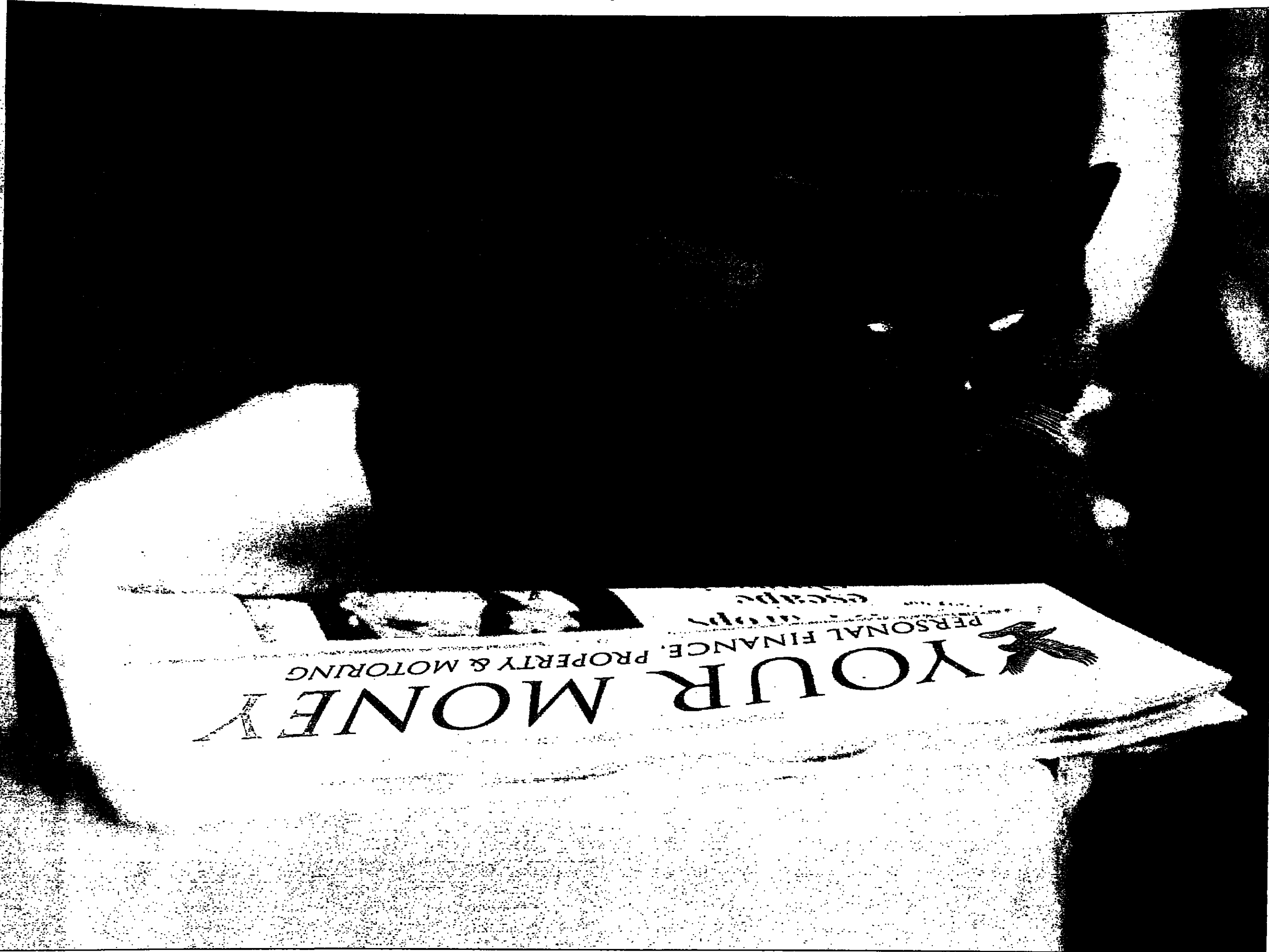




# YOUR MONEY

PERSONAL FINANCE, PROPERTY & MOTORING

Saturday 29 November 1997



On the scent of success: Schrodinger the cat is still beating the benchmark index after another stock-picking session, making selections by choosing pieces of dried cat food from a numbered grid

Photograph: Susannah Binney/Apex

## A fund manager with nine lives

Stock market turmoil in the recent period has left many investment houses wondering how to deliver value to their clients. No such worries for Schrodinger, The Independent's feline fund manager. As Paul Slade reports, our cat has survived the last three months with all nine lives intact.

Tracking fund managers' performance every few months can leave you feeling somewhat under the spotlight. Perhaps that is why Schrodinger has not been as successful in the UK equity growth sector as he was when in smaller company stocks. Even so, he has still shown a clear set of heels to the average benchmark index of the biggest 350 companies quoted on the Stock Exchange. And his performance still leaves investment experts open-jawed in admiration.

Schrodinger makes his stock selections by choosing pieces of dried cat food from a numbered grid. In the year to August 12, his CAT small companies portfolio rose by 4.35 per cent, against just 3.25 per cent for the average fund

in the sector and 0.37 per cent for the funds' benchmark index – an impressive performance.

At that point, we had him make some new selections, taking CAT into the UK equity growth sector. His first three months as an equity growth manager – a period which includes October's extraordinary stockmarket volatility – saw CAT fall by 0.53 per cent against the sector's average drop of 0.04 per cent. However, this still ranks the revised portfolio equal 79th in a field of 161 UK equity growth trusts.

Readers with units in Royal London's UK Growth Trust may like to know their own fund manager turned in an identical performance. Schrodinger remains ahead of Legal & General and Standard Life, two leading insurers whose funds have suffered even more from October's financial storms.

Ian Millward, an independent financial adviser at London-based Chase de Vere, says Schrodinger's performance would cause him no undue concern. He says: "CAT would be a definite 'hold.' Its performance is OK over the short term and seems to be quite good over the longer term. It doesn't seem to be particularly volatile. I think you have to say it's holding its own."

Schrodinger's three-month

decline of 0.53 per cent still leaves CAT well ahead of the FTSE 350 – the closest match as a benchmark index – which fell by 3.74 per cent over the same period.

When we first created the portfolio in August 1996, the grid represented shares in the FTSE mid-250. When the time came to realign the portfolio, we dropped the 10 worst-performing small companies, and let him select 10 replacements from a FTSE 100 grid of the UK's biggest players. UK equity growth trusts can buy shares not only in the FTSE 250, but also the more impor-

tant FTSE 100 – an option Schrodinger did not previously have.

Two of the FTSE 100 shares he picked – Abbey National and Great Universal Stores – are among CAT's top performers over the last quarter, showing growth of 15.76 per cent and 9.37 per cent respectively. Our top performer was Granada, whose shares grew by 19.75 per cent in the last three months. Granada came into the portfolio when it took over Yorkshire Tyne Tees, one of Schrodinger's original small companies picks, in July.

This fits in with Schro-

dinger's overall tactics so far, going for a portfolio which is overweight in financials, retailers and media, but underweight in sectors such as engineering.

Richard Carlyle, a pension fund manager at Henderson Touche Remnant, says: "It's a sensible split. If you were advertising yourself as an up-market, high fee-charging fund manager, and came up with this portfolio, you certainly couldn't be laughed at."

It is worth remembering that Schrodinger also underperformed as a small companies manager in his first quarter, but managed to turn the situation round as the year went on. His first-quarter performance in the UK equity growth sector will also have suffered from the dealing charges incurred when he sold his worst small companies stocks and bought the FTSE 100 ones.

The worst-performing unit trust in the UK equity growth sector over the past three months is Canada Life's Can-life General Trust, which lost 7.23 per cent of its value over the period. The top performer was Johnson Fry's Slater Growth Trust, which grew by 10.33 per cent. Johnson Fry may have been forced to issue a profits warning a week ago, but they've evidently got a smarter cat than we have.

UK equity growth unit trusts, over 3 months to November 10, 1997, offer to-offer, not income re-invested.

Trust	3-month change	Ranking (all funds)
Mercury Recovery	0.35%	75
Baring UK Growth	0.37%	76
Tilney UK Equity	0.47%	77
GT UK Growth	0.47%	78
Royal London UK Growth	0.53%	79
CAT Portfolio	0.53%	79
Halifax Growth	0.56%	80
Abbey Assets and Earnings	0.70%	81
Legal & General UK Recovery	0.74%	82
Scottish Mutual Select Opps	0.77%	83
Standard Life UK Equity Growth	0.79%	84

Source: Mirogall/Independent

Thought for the day

28,000 financial products.

4,000 mortgages.

164 unit trust companies.

Or 1 phone call.

Yes please I think I'd like to know more about talking to an IFA. Please send me my information pack, the names of three local IFAs and a voucher for my half hour free consultation. I understand that no-one will call me as a result of filling in this coupon. The address is IFA Promotion Limited, 17-19 Emery Road, Brighthelm, Brighton BN1 5PP.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

See an IFA

THIS ADVERTISEMENT APPEARS ON BEHALF OF BRITAIN'S INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL ADVISERS AND HAS BEEN APPROVED BY A PERSON REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY. THE EXCHANGE, QUOTE, ASSOCIATES' ESTIMATES AND FIRST EQUITY FROM LEASING YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED UPON IT. YOUR IFA WILL PROVIDE A WRITTEN QUOTATION ON REQUEST. NOT ALL THESE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ARE REGULATED BY THE FIA.



### INSIDE

3/JOHN WINDSOR  
Puzzling over jigsaws  
5/JONATHAN DAVIS  
Mind your Qs

9/PENNY JACKSON  
The lure of the country  
10/ROSALIND RUSSELL  
On the big screen

11/ROBERT LIEBMAN  
Move without trauma  
12/GAVIN GREEN  
Why I voted for the Alfa

# 2/PERSONAL FINANCE



NIC  
CICUTTI

## What Brown didn't mention

The Green Budget may have been good from the point of view of pensioners, who will now receive enhanced cold weather payments. Parents who will now be able to enrol their kids in one of the 30,000 planned out-of-school clubs will also raise a cheer.

But there was precious little in it to excite those of us who may have wanted to base our investment or borrowing decisions on what the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, had to say earlier this week.

The Iron Chancellor—or Iron Laddie, as some tabloids would have him called—said nothing about the new Individual Savings Account (ISA), which Labour intends to replace PEPs and Tessas in 1999.

Draft proposals will be published on Tuesday though, so by next weekend we should all have a better idea of whether to keep our money in existing PEPs and Tessas, or switch to the ISA.

Nor did Mr Brown give even a hint of what the Government intends to do about mortgage interest rate relief (Miras), the tax subsidy currently paid on the first £30,000 of most mortgages.

He may not have said anything this time (would you, after four mortgage rate rises in the past seven months?), but I'd still be willing to wager a small amount that the March Budget will see a drop in Miras relief from 10 per cent in April to 5 per cent the following year, or even its complete abolition.

Perhaps the greatest im-

ponderable is what Iron Laddie wants to do with inheritance tax. The current £215,000 limit, plus good tax advice, combine to ensure that all but about 15,000 estates each year scrape under the net.

In the run-up to last Tuesday, the air was thick with warnings of what might happen if the Laddie were to take an axe to some of the scams that help people avoid paying death duties.

It was always unlikely, however, that Mr Brown would have said anything on inheritance tax at this stage. Again, I'd be prepared to stick a small wager on this one coming up in a few months' time. Look out for potential exempt transfers being raised from seven to 10 years, or a limit of, say, £500,000 or £1m being placed on them.

More the point, look at some heavy-duty tax avoidance loopholes in a wide range of areas finally being plugged.

One small benefit to investors flowing from the decision to scrap advance corporation tax (ACT) is that investment trusts, whose shares have been trading well below net asset values, may now find it more easy to narrow that gap. In the past ACT ensured that share buy-backs, one way of reducing the discount, were inefficient.

So, all in all, what's the verdict? Five out of 10 for what he said and two out of 10 for not relieving the boredom factor.

## MONEY MAKEOVER

# The financial facts of married life

Name: Paul Grove

Age: 41

Occupation: School bus driver

The problem: Mr Grove, who is 41, earns about £23,000 a year, while his fiancée earns £16,000. He has a £54,000 mortgage on a property that cost £65,000 in February and may now be worth £75,000. The mortgage is backed by two with-profits endowment policies, one maturing in 2009 and the other in 2016. He also owns 450 Woolwich shares.

He has £10,500 invested in an M&G investment trust which has a wind-up date of 2002, which he is concerned about because of its relative under-performance, plus £4,000 savings in a building society. His fiancée also has a similar amount in a society account.

The couple are both members of their respective occupational pension schemes. They have no outstanding loans and estimate that after setting up home together they will have a monthly "surplus" of £450, although they are also considering starting a family, in which case they might need to move to a larger house, potentially costing £100,000.

Mr Grove is considering investing for capital growth, possibly through direct investment in the stock market, looking 12 to 17 years ahead.

The adviser: James Bruce, financial planner and independent financial adviser, Corporate and

Personal Planning, Highwoods Square, Highwoods, Colchester, Essex, CO4 4BB (01206 841176).

The advice: First, you have a need for an adequate fund in case of emergencies. You already have £4,000 in a Nationwide Postal Account. This offers a superior rate of interest to equivalent branch-based accounts. I would recommend that you continue with this.

On the protection front, the two endowment policies contain life cover to pay off the mortgage loan in the event of your death. You also have death in service benefits of twice your salary in the event of death. Given that you have no dependents, at present you have no need for further life cover.

If you were unable to work for reasons of ill-health or accident, you would receive six months' full pay. I would recommend that you insure against this happening to you. Replacement of earnings cover paying £16,000 a year (about 64 per cent of current income) would cost £29 a month, assuming a 52-week deferment period.

You also have no protection in the event of a sudden serious illness—such as cancer, stroke or a heart attack—which you then survive. Critical illness cover pays a lump sum on diagnosis of a range of illnesses. The cost of such cover, which could be used to pay off the £54,000 mortgage loan in the event of illness, would be £30-£35 a month.



Paul Grove, who plans to marry next year, needs to consider some extra insurance cover

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

The pension scheme you belong to is a good one, with index-linked benefits based on your final salary and years of service. I recommend that you remain a member of this scheme.

One eventually you have mentioned is marriage to your fiancée next year. Typically, the costs of a wedding can be up to £10,000. This would make a significant dent in your savings.

After marriage the professional drafting of a will becomes vital, otherwise normal intestacy

laws will apply. With a will you can determine where you wish your inheritance to go.

Buying a new property at £100,000 will require extra funds of £35,000, assuming the sale of your existing one at £75,000. You are concerned that, jointly with your fiancée, mortgaging yourself to the hilt may not be sensible. I suggest putting down the largest deposit possible, using the financial resources you already have at your disposal.

The shortfall above can be

partly financed through the equity of £21,000 in your property, the existing PEP investment and your 450 Woolwich shares, leaving a gap of about £4,000. To meet this, I would suggest that any surplus income continues to be paid into your Nationwide account for the foreseeable future.

Although I agree that equity investment is the best option for long-term financial returns, I am not convinced that buying shares directly is the most sen-

sible way to gain such exposure. Given your relatively low resources at present, pooled investments—such as unit and investment trusts—that spread risk are a better alternative. Given that you may require it to help finance the new property, I would suggest that you do not transfer the M&G investment trust into another fund at present, irrespective of its current disappointing performance. You might incur expensive initial charges to little purpose.

## UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT/COMMERCIAL UNION'S PREMIER INVESTMENT BOND

The product: Commercial Union's Premier Investment Bond.

The deal: Invest at least £2,500 in the bond and Commercial Union will "guarantee" to pay a return of 9 per cent in the first year. Investors putting in more than £5,000 can also receive a small regular income from the investment, rising with age.

Plus points: The return beats most investment bonds available and charges, at first glance, appear to be pared to the bone. CU has dropped the usual initial charge (bid/offer spread). A policy charge of 0.08 per cent per month looks like good value.

Commercial Union has been very successful at marketing investment products such as this

bond because advisers believe the company can support its products from a sound financial base.

For wealthy investors putting more than £50,000 into the bond, CU will actually invest more than the fund is worth, or 102 per cent of the money put up.

Drawbacks and risks: The

"guaranteed" return is eye-catching, even when it only applies for a year. However, CU is not guaranteeing anything with regard to the investor's capital. If the securities in which CU's life fund invests—mostly UK equities—fall in value then CU reserves the right to apply a market value adjuster, a straight deduction from the fund. The

company says it has never applied this. However, pressure for it to do so is likely to increase if the present volatility in the stock market turns into a downward slide or a crash.

The charges are not quite as good as they first appear. Investors who are not 100-per-cent certain they will not need to cash in their investment should avoid

this because there are hefty surrender penalties of up to 9 per cent for early encashment. And the 0.08 per cent per month fee translates into a charge of more than 1 per cent a year; this is where CU's profit comes from. Verdict: Solid for those who already have solid finances. Marks out of five: Three.

—Andrew Verity

# Hard to beat

Select 90.  
Higher rates for new and existing customers.

If you're searching for higher interest, with penalty free access to your money, take a close look at our Select 90 Account.

You simply give us ninety days notice and you pay no penalty for withdrawals. Or you can have immediate access with ninety days loss of interest on the amount withdrawn.

All we ask is that you don't make more than three withdrawals in each calendar year.

You can choose to have your interest paid annually or monthly (we'll keep you up to date with a statement every six months).

And you've all the convenience of an account operated by first class post. Looks attractive?

This is a limited issue, so do invest now with £10,000 or more.

For details, call us free from 9 to 5 weekdays or 10 to 3 weekends. 0500 50 5000

NEW INCREASED RATES EFFECTIVE FROM MONDAY 1 DECEMBER 1997

UP TO **8.15%** GROSS

AMOUNT YOU INVEST	ANNUAL GROSS	ANNUAL NET	MONTHLY GROSS	MONTHLY NET
£100,000+	8.15	6.52	7.85	6.28
£50,000+	8.00	6.40	7.60	6.08
£25,000+	7.95	6.36	7.50	6.00
£10,000+	7.90	6.32	7.40	5.92

**NR**  
NORTHERN ROCK

Northern Rock plc. Registered Office: Northern Rock House, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4PL.  
www.nrock.co.uk Assets exceed £14 billion.

Rates are correct at 11.57 but may vary. The circumstances in which the rates may vary are described in our Select Accounts Terms and Conditions and Charges leaflet. "Interest will be paid after deduction of income tax at the lower rate (currently 30%) or, subject to the required circumstances, gross. Where the tax deducted exceeds an investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. For individuals whose income falls within the lower rate band, the tax deducted will match their liability to tax on the interest and they will have no more tax to pay on it. Individuals who are liable at the higher rate of income tax of 40% will have to pay additional tax on the interest to cover the difference between the tax deducted and the higher rate tax due. Account balances below £10,000 will receive interest at the prevailing basic savings rate. Interest is not paid on balances below £50, unless the account holder is registered as being under 22 years of age. The account is for personal use only and is open to managers UK residents. Full written terms and conditions will be sent with your application form. Your confirmation slip will usually be sent to you within five full working days. Opening an account is subject to status and identification will be required. Minimum investment £10,000. Maximum holding with Northern Rock £500,000.

## FOR A PROFITABLE FUTURE MAKE CUTS HERE.

If you want the chance to be wealthy in the future, you should be making a few cuts now – all around our coupon.

Why? Because we can offer you a range of high performing funds, from the low risk UK Equity Fund, a top performing fund since launch\*, to higher risk, specialised funds, such as the US Smaller Companies Fund, up 200% over the last five years\*\*. And our Income Fund has increased its dividend each year over the last 15 years.

All you need to invest is the Schroder Investment Collection, your complete guide to all our funds. So pick up those scissors now – these could be the last cuts you ever need to make.

**0800 002 000**  
Quoting ref 759

TO: SCHRODERS  
CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT.  
9279 FREEPOST LON 7108,  
LONDON EC4B 4PD.

Please send me my free copy of the Schroder Investment Collection. Alternatively, contact your usual financial adviser.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth / / \_\_\_\_\_

From what source does your investment money usually come?

Salary ☐  
Retirement package ☐  
A switch from another investment ☐  
Other (please state): \_\_\_\_\_

Source: Micropal buying price to selling price, net income reinvested to 3.11.97.  
\*From 3.1.72 (earliest figures available) 1111%  
\*\*From 2.11.92, +206.62%

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Exchange rate changes may cause the value of overseas investments to rise or fall.

Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4EL.  
Regulated by IMRO.  
www.sil.co.uk/schroder/ut

# Schroders

Pick up



If you  
our  
move

مكتبة الامم المتحدة



# 3/PERSONAL FINANCE

THE INDEPENDENT  
SATURDAY  
29 NOVEMBER 1997

## COLLECT TO INVEST

### Pick up the pieces cheaply

Sniff, sniff. If the wooden jigsaw puzzle in the junk shop smells a bit musty or damp, it's good news. It has probably been preserved in an attic or cellar, with all its pieces intact. And if it is a big, 1,000-piece puzzle, it is more likely to be intact than smaller ones - big ones were so daunting that they were consigned to the attic sooner rather than later. John Windsor picks up the pieces

holes. Otherwise, how will you know whether your charity shop find is intact?

A puzzle worth £200 or more at auction - such as the rare 200-piece Great Western Railway's "G.W. Locos in the Making" made by Chad Valley between 1936 and 1939 - can drop in value by a half or two thirds if one or more pieces is missing. Without its box it suffers a similar drop in value.

Locos in the Making, showing a party of schoolchildren apparently about to be crushed by a tank engine on an overhead hoist at GWR's Swindon workshop, is typical of the images that sell best.

Transport is the thing: express trains, ocean liners, aeroplanes - the sort of Cor-whoosh! juggernauts that set schoolboys' pulses racing before the space age.

Now is the time to scour your attic for 20th century wooden jigsaw puzzles. Earlier, hand-sawn jigsaws have long been recognised as collectable antiques. But with the publication on 9 December of Tom Tyler's comprehensive guide, *British Jigsaws of the Twentieth Century*, the jigsaws that father and grandfather used to make will become more sought after.

They have hitherto been a relatively unrecognised and undervalued collectable. The auction market for them is narrow and prices are stable - for the same reason, odd though it may seem, that prices for horse-drawn carriages are stable. Only horse riders buy carriages and only puzzle-doers buy puzzles.

Love it or loathe it, there is no avoiding trying to slot those little "necks" into the right

hous. Otherwise, how will you know whether your charity shop find is intact?

They have hitherto been a relatively unrecognised and undervalued collectable. The auction market for them is narrow and prices are stable - for the same reason, odd though it may seem, that prices for horse-drawn carriages are stable. Only horse riders buy carriages and only puzzle-doers buy puzzles.

Love it or loathe it, there is no avoiding trying to slot those little "necks" into the right

collecting, but most are relatively common and most established puzzle collectors already own all but the rarest of the 40 or so in the series. There seems to be a glut of GWR/Chad Valley's *The Romans at Caerleon* and *Brazenose College Oxford*, at around £30 each.

The astute collector will explore new territory. Why, for example, are Pears puzzles, even the quintessentially Victorian "Bubbles" picture, still changing hands at only £15-£30?

The collector David Cooper cherishes his deliciously decadent *Salome Dances Before Herod*, a 600-piece puzzle published by Holtzapffel in about 1905. It sells for £50-£80. Its pieces are all of different shapes and it is a swine to make up.

Apart from that, very little is known about Holtzapffel, a German engineering company that settled in London and began making quality jigsaws solely to demonstrate its superb new jigsaw. Author Tom Tyler has a trade list of them, but the publisher of their prints is not known.

Will more collectors specialise in Holtzapffel, do some research - and push up prices? As a start, Mr Tyler's book brings to light some splendid Holtzapfels, including *Salome* and a Queen Cleopatra with edges that follow her outline. Many manufacturers' archives have been chucked into builders' skips. Tick's were destroyed in the blitz.

Mr Cooper, a builder, has a sideline - he is the country's

most renowned maker of replica jigsaw pieces. Lend him the pieces surrounding the vacant spot and, for a fiver, he will cut a precise replica and his wife, Val, will paint it using acrylic colours.

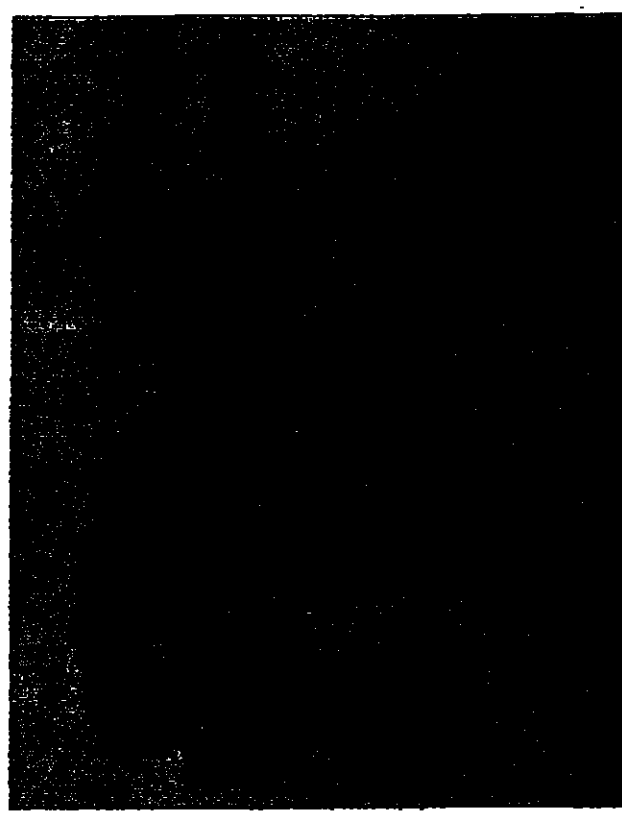
He uses balsa-backed plywood that is easily sanded down to the level of the surrounding pieces and shows up clearly and honestly on the back. "I restore the picture, not the puzzle," he says. The restoration of a lost piece or two will not restore more than two-thirds of the value of a puzzle at the most. But at least it will look perfect.

It is Mr Cooper who sniffs puzzles. The smell of newly sawn plywood warned him against buying one that a dealer insisted was antique.

At Romsey Auction Rooms, jigsaw puzzle specialist Brian Lee has an antidote to the lost-piece problem - a number of knowledgeable vendors, many of them women, who pay as little as 20p for jigsaw puzzles in junk and charity shops and hoot sales, assemble them, wrap them in cling film for display at auction - then watch them fetch £20 or £100 or £200.

Mr Lee would not offer a puzzle with an expensive title unless it was made up. Who would gamble even a quarter of its complete value in the hope of finding it intact? Many collectors, he reports, simply will not buy incomplete puzzles. You can buy loose puzzles at the mill cardboard ones, for around £20 for a lot of half a dozen or more.

Cautionary tale for the im-



Cleopatra, in a jigsaw by a German engineering company

patient: three conscientious staff at Bonhams, leading London auctioneers in jigsaw puzzles, spent a total of 45 hours assembling five boxed GWR puzzles - including the sought-after *Locos in the Making* - before offering them in last month's sale.

Locos in the Making, complete but with three pieces broken, sold for £138, three sold for £39, £46 and £63 and the fifth, *The Fishguard Army*, a fishing scene, damaged, failed to sell.

Tom Tyler is founder of *The Benevolent Fraternity of Dissectologists* (01473-723458). His *British Jigsaw Puzzles of the Twentieth Century* is published by Richard Dennis, The Old Chapel, Shepton Beauchamp, Somerset

TA19 0LE (01460-24004), £22, p&p £1, credit card callers post-free. David Cooper (01227 742222), Romsey Auction Rooms (01794-513331), Sheffield Railwayana Auctions (Ian Wright 0114-274 5085), Bonhams Chelsea (0171-393 3906).

## LOOSE CHANGE

The Shepherd's Friendly Society is offering three stars in the constellation Ursa Major as prizes in a competition. Winners will be able to name a star after themselves or anyone they choose. Entrants will be required to name the greatest wish they can make for the person after whom they would name the star. Call 0800 526249 for an entry form.

Shipton Building Society is launching two fixed-rate bonds. Both will pay 7.3 per cent gross, either over one or two years. On the two-year bond, interest is paid at the end of year one and at maturity. Call 0800 446776.

NetPEP, the provider of a FTSE 100 tracker fund offered on the Internet, is offering to waive all initial charges on investments made before December 31. The PEP has annual charges of 0.35 per cent. Access to the NetPEP website is on: www.netpep.co.uk

Birmingham Midshires is launching a savings account, the Double Bonus Bond, which splits the investment between a variable rate of return, linked to Bank of England base rates, and the FTSE 100 share index. The bond pays a return of up to

7.5 per cent on the variable half of the investment and is guaranteed to match base rates until January 1999. The stock market element guarantees a minimum of 20 per cent, up to a maximum of 100 per cent. Call 01902-302323. Leeds & Holbeck Building Society is offering visitors to its new Internet site the chance to win cross-Channel ferry crossings from Dover or Portsmouth in a free monthly prize draw. Access is on: www.leeds-holbeck.co.uk

Colonial, the financial services provider, has re-priced its standard term assurance rates. A non-smoking male aged 30 next birthday now pays £7.85 a month for £50,000 of cover over 25 years, compared to £8.72 from Allied Dunbar or £11.50 from Prudential. Call 0800 828501.

Peart, the insurance company, is cutting from 6 to 4 per cent the initial charges on investments into its range of unit trusts and PEPs, including its Equity Income and Equity Growth trusts. Annual management charges are 1.5 per cent. Call Leo Thomas or Ruth Weighill on 0171 3699333.



## INTERNET INVESTOR

ROBIN AMLOT

### Looking for a loan on-line

Basic interest rates went up earlier this month - you probably noticed. However, you may not have noticed the trickle of increases in rates by various mortgage lenders. Many building societies say they will hold their standard variable mortgage rates unchanged at least until the end of this year. Most of the bank mortgage lenders have already put their mortgage rates up.

If you want to know exactly why the Bank of England decided to raise interest rates, the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting held on November 5-6 will be published on December 10 and you will be able to read them for yourself on the Bank's website.

But what of mortgage rates? Who is offering the best deal and how long for? A new website, Money-net, offers an independent interactive service, Mortgage Finder, which lists rates, discounts, conditions and special offers from more than 80 mortgage lenders. Details of mortgage rates and offers are updated daily.

Using Mortgage Finder, you can review fixed rate, discounted, capped or variable rate mortgages, those offering a cashback or any mix of the above. In addition to interest rates, a full breakdown is available for each product, highlighting relevant information such as early redemption penalties, any insurance insisted upon by the lender and any arrangement fees charged.

Money-net is a work-in-progress. The site includes a section on FAQs (frequently asked questions) and will have a mortgage calculator, which is currently being built. It is best viewed using Microsoft's Internet Explorer rather than Netscape Navigator, the other main web browser. In future, the site aims to include information about conveyancers and insurers.

While you can search for a mortgage on the world wide web, you still cannot yet arrange one on-line. However, the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML), the trade body which represents lenders accounting for about 98 per cent of all the mortgages in the UK, is now weighing up the feasibility of mortgage trading being carried out electronically by intermediaries - financial advisers - still one step removed from consumers.

Meanwhile, the CML has launched its own website which contains information on its members and provides links to lenders' websites. It offers consumer information in the shape of guides to buying a home in England and Wales and buying a home in Scotland. The site also contains a range of consumer fact-sheets, press releases and statistical data on house prices and mortgage arrears.

Though you cannot arrange a mortgage on-line, there is now a mortgage account that you can manage on the web. It is Legal & General's Flexible Reserve Mortgage, which, in early 1995, was the first flexible mortgage to be offered in the UK. L&G has

launched InterPlan, an interactive approach to managing money on the Internet and as a first step is offering an on-line mortgage management service.

The Flexible Reserve Mortgage allows you to make extra payments, at any time, to reduce the outstanding mortgage and create an available reserve. It offers a competitive variable rate of interest, which L&G promises will never be more than 1.5 per cent above bank base rates. The rate is currently 7.7 per cent, equivalent to an APR of 8.0 per cent.

Using InterPlan you can see at a glance your outstanding mortgage. Statements are updated daily and list your last five lump sum transactions, your current mortgage balance and the amount available to you in your available reserve. You can also submit transaction requests, arranging to make lump sum payments, amend or instruct an additional monthly payment, take a payment holiday or borrow back money from your available reserve.

There is also a personal planner calculator which allows you to see the effect of making mortgage overpayments, borrowing from your Available Reserve or taking payment holidays.

Bank of England: www.bankofengland.co.uk

Money-net: www.money-net.co.uk

Council of Mortgage Lenders: www.cml.org.uk

Legal & General InterPlan: www.legal-and-general.co.uk/iplan

## LOW RATE PERSONAL LOANS

from

# 11.9%

FIXED APR

Compare our rates to see how much you could save

LOAN	LLOYDS	TSB	BARCLAYS	Capital One DIRECT	SAVE UP TO
\$10,000	13.8%	13.8%	15.9%	11.9%	2.9%
\$5,000	14.9%	16.9%	17.9%	12.9%	2.0%
\$3,000	16.9%	18.9%	20.9%	13.9%	3.0%
\$2,000	18.8%	21.9%	20.9%	15.9%	3.9%

You can borrow from £2,000 to £10,000 and repay over 2 to 5 years. So why not call us now?

**Capital One**  
DIRECT

CALL 0800 216 252 NOW

AND QUOTE 64-403 TO APPLY OR REQUEST A FREE INFORMATION PACK

\*Different lenders have different terms and conditions. Competitive information used APRs stated are published bank branch rates and correct at the time of going to press 17/11/97. The maximum savings are based on a 60 month loan without insurance. Typical example: for a loan of £5,000 repayable over 36 months at £101.21 per month, the total amount repayable is £3,643.56 at 11.9% APR. With £100 a month loan would be £1,071.61 per month, the total amount repayable £3,673.56 at 11.9% APR. You must have a bank or building society account from which repayments will be made by direct debit. You must be aged 18 or over, resident in the UK and in receipt of a regular income. All loans are subject to credit checks. Loans for business or business purposes are excluded. Written quotations available on request. Calls to Capital One Direct may be recorded or monitored for security purposes. Capital One Direct, 78 Mariner Square, London, W19 5DA.

If you move job,  
our pension  
moves with you.



Our pension arrangements let you change job, take a

career break or become self-employed, all without penalty.

Your first good move? Why not call for no-fuss advice

or information without obligation.

**SCOTTISH WIDOWS**

Looking good for your pension.

Please telephone quoting ref: 288D55 0345 6789 10 or talk to your Independent Financial Adviser.

For your protection, your calls to Scottish Widows may be recorded or monitored and information or advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products. Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

**THE INDEPENDENT**  
Free guide to Mortgages

Sponsored by  
**BARCLAYS MORTGAGES**

A 27 page guide to the...  
For your free copy call 0800 585 691  
Or complete and return this coupon to  
Barclays Mortgage Guide  
FREEPOST PO Box 7, Brentford, Middx. TW8 9BR

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (inc STD): \_\_\_\_\_  
Are you a Barclays Customer? Yes ☐ No ☐  
Are you a 1st time buyer? ☐ Home mover ☐  
The information on this form will be stored on computer and used to identify products or services which might be relevant to you. If you do not wish to receive future information from Barclays Mortgages please tick ☐

**DIRECT LINE RATES**

**SAVINGS RATES**

Direct Line Instant Access Account	APR
Balance	4.5%
£1-£4,999	4.5%
£5,000-£9,999	4.5%
£10,000-£24,999	4.5%
£25,000-£49,999	4.5%
£50,000-£99,999	4.5%
£100,000+	4.5%

**MORTGAGE RATE**

Direct Line Standard Variable Mortgage Rate	APR
Variable Rate	4.5%

All rates correct at 10th November 1997.

**DIRECT LINE**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES

0181 649 9099  
MORTGAGES

0181 667 1121  
SAVINGS

Source: Direct Line Financial Services. For further information about either of the Direct Line products listed above, please phone the appropriate number above quoting ref. INDBB36

**BRIAN TORA**

## In some ways, the collapse of Japan's fourth largest bank should be welcomed

Both sides of the inflation versus deflation argument received a flip this week. Those who believe rising prices are the real danger will have had their fears confirmed by the latest Bank of England Inflation Report. The Labour market is tightening, with shortages appearing not just amongst skilled workers. Those unfortunate employees of Yamaichi should have little difficulty in finding new employment in the Square Mile.

The collapse of Yamaichi - and more importantly the problems facing South Korea - must add weight to those who argue that deflation remains the dominant threat. The delay to Hyundai's £3bn semiconductor project in Scotland is just one example of how the problems afflicting the Tigers may have knock-on effects. Analysts have downgraded their growth forecasts sharply. The restrictions accompanying the IMF rescue package in South Korea will not help either.

But there is comfort to be gained from news emanating from the Orient. The relative calm with which markets greeted the news of the collapse of Japan's fourth largest stockbroker is encouraging. At the very least it shows confidence in the authorities' ability to manage the situation. Indeed, in some ways the collapse should be welcomed. Not so many years ago such a major financial problem might have been swept under the carpet.

Yamaichi is the third Japanese financial institution to fold in as many weeks.

Interestingly all were based on the same street in Tokyo, now not surprisingly nicknamed 'Yosan-Dori', or Bankruptcy Row. No doubt other brokers sharing this address are even now looking for alternative premises.

Back home there are a few brokers who are none too pleased with the Stock Exchange. Problems remain with the electronic order book, which is still failing to achieve the penetration into share trading originally envisaged. Prices during the first hour of trading remain unreliable, but this is when the bulk of execution-only business is transacted.

The prices struck for these trades can be as much as 15 per cent adrift from those that apply once the market has settled down. The Exchange toyed with the idea of allowing a delay before these orders were carried out, but has abandoned these plans, preferring to recommend the adoption of price limits instead.

Execution-only brokers considered this unsatisfactory. Educating clients to use limits sensibly will add to their costs and risks remain that orders will not be carried out, or more than one attempt will be made to transact what should otherwise be simple business.

With a number of traders now curtailing their link with the electronic order book to avoid highly volatile periods at the beginning and end of the day, both prices and index levels cannot be relied upon.

Brian Tora is chairman of Greig Middleton's investment strategy committee

**BEST BORROWING RATES**

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ % Rate and period: \_\_\_\_\_ Max LTV: \_\_\_\_\_ Fee: \_\_\_\_\_ Incentive: \_\_\_\_\_

**MORTGAGES**

**FIXED RATE**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**FAST TIME BUYERS FIXED RATE**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**FAST TIME BUYERS VARIABLE DISCOUNTED RATES**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**OVERDRAFTS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**CREDIT CARDS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**STANDARD**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**SOLID CARDS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**STONE CARDS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

All rates subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01982 500677 27 Nov 1997

**BEST SAVINGS RATES**

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Account: \_\_\_\_\_ Notice or term: \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTANT ACCESS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**CHEQUE ACCOUNTS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**FIXED RATE BONDS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**FIRST TESSAS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**FOLLOW-ON TESSAS**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS (gross)**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

**NATIONAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (GROSS)**

Product	Rate	Term	Fee
...	...	...	...

All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. Source: MONEYFACTS 01982 500677 27 Nov 1997

**NO FIXED COSTS FOR REGULAR INVESTMENTS**

**ONLY 2% INITIAL CHARGE**

**ONLY 0.3% ANNUAL MANAGEMENT CHARGE**

**NO EXIT CHARGES**

**NO ANCILLARY CHARGES**

## The Tracker PEP with no hidden charges

**ROYAL & SUNALLIANCE**

Instead of charging you up to 1% every year like some PEPs, the Rose Tracker offers one of the lowest annual management fees on the market at just 0.3%.

It's the latest offer from Invest On-line, the direct investment arm of one of the UK's leading insurance companies, Royal & Sun Alliance.

Unlike some index trackers, the Rose Tracker PEP spreads your investment over the whole FTSE All-Share Index, not just the top 100, so reducing the risks.

You can start investing in the Rose Tracker PEP either as a regular saver from as little as £50 each month or with a lump sum of £1000 or more.

Even if you already have a PEP it is very easy to transfer your funds to the Rose Tracker PEP.

For your free guide to investing in the Rose Tracker PEP, and full written terms and conditions, call free now on 0500 100 333 or clip the coupon below. Our friendly and knowledgeable staff will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ROSE TRACKER PEP CALL FREE ON 0500 100 333**

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK 8AM-10PM

**Invest On-line**

Invest On-line, FREEPOST 3479, Reading, Berkshire RG10 9ZZ.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms... Forename: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information about: 1. Regular savings ☐ 2. Lump sum investment ☐ 3. Transferring my existing PEP ☐

Looking for **HIGH INTEREST and instant access?**  
We've got it covered.

**Unlimited number of withdrawals.**

For high interest and high standards of service, it has to be Legal & General's postal instant access account. It's called the Direct Access Account and you can start saving with just £2,500. And whatever you save you'll earn an attractive rate - which could be as much as 7.2% gross interest per annum. A monthly interest option is also available on balances of £5,000 and over - up to 6.95% gross p.a. And what's more, you can gain instant access to your money, by post or by phone. So if you want to earn an attractive rate of interest with instant access, call us free on the number below. Our friendly staff will be happy to help you.

**Up to 7.2% gross p.a. (net 5.76% p.a.) Instant access.**  
(Inclusive of initial bonus of 1.0% p.a.)

Annual Gross	Annual Net
£10,000+	7.2% 5.76%
£5,000+	7.15% 5.72%
£2,500+	7.15% 5.72%

Rates inclusive of an initial bonus of 1.0% p.a. (0.2% net p.a.).

**Legal & General**

trust us to deliver

Lines are open 8am-5pm Mon-Fri and 9am-5pm weekends. To help us improve our service to you, all calls are recorded. Please quote ref: 8042 DJ03

Rates are variable except for the 1.0% p.a. bonus, which is guaranteed to be added to your account until 31st December 1998. This is a limited offer. Rates correct at time of going to press. Interest paid net of income tax (currently 20%). Interest can be paid gross to UK residents subject to required certification. Only available to applicants aged 18 or over and ordinarily resident in the UK. Full written terms and conditions will be sent with your application form. Minimum initial investment £2,500. Maximum investment £240,000. Minimum withdrawal £500. Legal & General Limited, Registered in England No 3403470. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

How to tell the markets are running too hot

Don't h  
retiring. I  
company p

The Equi  
You profit from

سكزا من الاعمال





# 6/MUTUALS SURVEY

## Owned by the customers. It's still a winning strategy



The customer is king: Nationwide, along with the other building societies that have stayed mutual, has to retain the loyalty of its savers and borrowers and compete head-on with all comers in the financial world. Tony Buckingham

The building societies, the mutual insurers, the Co-op ... mutual societies have a long and distinguished history. But what sort of future do they have now that some of the biggest have converted to plc status? Tony Lyons introduces a two-page survey showing why the surviving mutuals believe they still have a lot to offer

Mutual societies have been an established part of the financial scene for over two centuries. Not listed on any stock exchange, and owned entirely by members, they had a cosy existence for most of the time.

There are different types of mutual societies. These range from the Co-operative Society to building societies owned by their saving and borrowing members, plus life offices owned by with-profits policyholders.

Many mutuals were formed originally by local worthies to provide local benefits and financial assistance to members, whether to provide housing in the case of building societies or life cover by the in-

surers. They had no outside shareholders to demand a return on capital invested.

The past couple of years have seen the existence of mutuals under challenge. As the banks in particular have sought to increase their product range, offering under one roof all the financial services that their customers want, new entrants have emerged in their more traditional markets in the shape of direct providers and supermarkets.

Who would have thought, barely a few years ago, that one might be able to buy investments or pensions at Marks & Spencer, that Richard Branson's Virgin operation would become a significant force

in savings and mortgages, or that the some of best instant savings deals would come from Tesco and Sainsbury's.

In order to compete in what they see as a much bigger marketplace, some of the largest mutuals have changed to plc status, enriching their members in the process. Abbey National was the first in the queue nearly a decade ago. The recession slowed the process, however. In the last couple of years Abbey has been joined by several large rivals including Halifax, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich. They believed that by having a stock market listing they could diversify while at the same time shareholder pressure would in-

crease returns by enabling them to become more efficient.

All this has led to wild speculation as money flooded into potential demutualisers, especially building societies, in the hope of making windfall gains. This dramatically slowed down after many of the beleaguered societies raised their minimum deposit rates for becoming a member from £1 to £1,000 or more. The Government is also coming to their aid by changing the rules so that at least half the members have to vote on any change in mutual status.

As it is, the recent stock market flotations, including that of the insurer Norwich Union, together with a number of take-

overs, including Bristol & West, National & Provincial, and Scottish Amicable, have put more than £30bn into the pockets of their former members, equal to some £1,700 for every adult in the country.

The increased competition from proprietary companies with their outside shareholders has made the committed mutuals, and their near cousins the provident societies, sit up and take stock. Gone is the former complacency. Now they are striving not only to retain the loyalty of their existing members but also to compete head-on with all comers, as this survey seeks to show. The evidence shows that they are winning the debate.

## The dust has settled but the war goes on

Mutual societies have seen living in abnormal market conditions over the past couple of years. Building societies in particular have seen a flow of speculative flows from customers seeking conversions or takeovers. But, as Vernon Bates writes, the mutuals are fighting back.

The windfall fever has now cooled. The recent decision by Helen Liddell, Treasury Secretary, that at least half the members of a society must vote on any question of demutualisation has put a damper on speculation.

While the spate of conversions has diminished, the argument for and against demutualisation continues to rage, with each side highlighting its respective benefits. John Caine, director of corporate affairs at Alliance & Leicester, is particularly critical of his mutual competitors, claiming that they have double standards and inherent inefficiencies.

He says: "The first mutual was formed in a Birmingham b in 1781 by teachers and clerics, people with a common bond. How then can a society have an objective to aid members be extended to include a million or more people from all walks of life? Just look at the range and product available to the customer now compared 178 years ago."

He is particularly critical of Abbey National, the biggest remaining building society, after a summer's vote when a supermajority of members tried to join the board so as to force it to demutualise. John Caine claims

members were not given a real choice in their future. "Something like 350,000 people voted for a freelance builder to be on the board at the Nationwide. If the vote had been the option to convert or not, I guarantee many more would have voted to convert."

As for whether the societies offer the best deals, Mr Caine cites a recent survey in *Your Mortgage* magazine of 46 leading mortgage lenders, where Nationwide ranked 45th most expensive for the cost of a £20,000 mortgage between August 1992 and July, 1997. He states that this is proof that mutuals are not always offering the best deals. Indeed, Alliance & Leicester, which converted to a publicly owned company this year, was the cheapest lender over that period.

Such surveys are offered to counter the battle cry that a mutual always offers the best deal. Yet, as with many such surveys, they do not always tell the whole truth. The early to mid-1990s was a period in which many societies felt no need to compete seriously in defence of mutuality.

Hence, deals on offer remained broadly the same across both banks and building societies. Over the past two years that has changed and it is likely - assuming present conditions still apply in two or three years' time - that mutuals will then be trouncing their banking rivals.

Ken Culley, chief executive of Portman Building Society and chairman of the Metropolitan Association of Building Societies, argues: "As a mutual, we do not have to pay dividends or maximise profits for the sake of institutional shareholders. This is unlike a plc."

Portman and other building societies have launched loyalty programmes for their members.

Pay-backs are given in the form of bonuses to long-standing borrowers and savers, depending on profits made.

Looking at life assurance, the leading mutuals such as Scottish Widows, Standard Life, Friends Provident and Equitable Life, have had a long record of being amongst the top performers for long-term-with profits endowment and pension policies. Not having to pay dividends to outside shareholders means that the members get the benefits.

The mutual financial service providers are using their capital structure and competitive strengths to try and convince customers that they provide the best deals in the marketplace, in terms of products, pricing and service standards.

These new strategies have had an especially dramatic impact in the highly competitive mortgage market. In 1996, building societies committed to their mutual status took a greater share of net mortgage lending than banks, converting mutuals and specialist providers combined.

A similar picture has emerged this year, with mutuals capturing a far bigger slice of business than they would seem to be entitled to. Of course, some of this is down to the expectations of many new members, particularly savers, that in the event of a future society flotation, they stand to gain from another free share bonanza.

None of this implies that the mutuals can afford to rest on their laurels. Some of the largest competitors in mortgage, banking and insurance are looking to expand by means of mergers and acquisitions. Many new entrants, such as the supermarket giants, are coming on the scene. There is a continuing trend by the large in-

stitutions to offer an ever-widening range of products under one roof.

These developments are increasing competitive pressure and it is far from clear what the final shape of the financial services industry will be in a few years time. As a consequence everyone is trying to beef up their quality of service they offer customers, engaging specialist marketing consultancies to assist them.

Peter Rufus, director at The Red Partnership, just such an agency, says: "There is continual pressure to earn more revenue from existing customers. But revenue will only come from understanding the changing needs of customers."

"This means building relationships based on the way that customer wants to be served. The days when a prospective customer approached a bank or building society with cap in hand are a distant memory. The customer is now king."

Chris Holland, Bradford & Bingley's corporate affairs manager, admits that the mutuals occasionally get things wrong. But he adds: "Such instances are often outweighed by improving standards and a positive effort to learn from errors."

The importance of maximising customer satisfaction is recognised, especially when this can lead to new purchases. "A satisfied customer who buys additional services leads to better profits," says Mr Holland.

However, the future of the mutuals is in the hands of their savers and borrowers, who are demanding ever better service and products at prices that represent solid value. After all, without any obvious benefits, membership of a mutual society may feel no different to being a customer in a publicly-listed bank.

## Worth checking out in the age of supermarket savings

It used to be easy. If you wanted a mortgage or savings account you went to a building society, if you needed a bank account you went to a bank and if you wanted groceries you visited a supermarket. Nowadays, they all offer mortgages and savings accounts. The building societies argue they still provide the best deals, but is this true? Abigail Morrose investigates.

Following the recent spate of building society conversions, there are now just 71 left in business in the UK, with over 10 million members between them. The societies argue that they offer better value over the long-term than other savings and mortgage providers because they only have their members' interests at heart. In contrast, the mutuals claim, public companies, such as the banks and former building societies, put shareholders' interests before those of their customers.

Alan Oliver, spokesman for the largest building society, Nationwide, says: "We don't have to pay dividends or put shareholders' interests first. We can focus on our customers in everything we do, passing on the benefits of better mortgage and savings rates to them." Fine words,

but does the rhetoric stand up to the facts?

A recent survey by the Consumers' Association looked at the savings and mortgage rates offered throughout 1996 by the five largest remaining building societies - Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley, Britannia, Birmingham Midshires and Yorkshire. These were compared with five which had announced their decision to convert into banks - Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Bristol & West.

Those which became banks charged mortgage borrowers an average variable interest rate of 6.75 per cent during 1996 - 0.3 percentage points more than the mutual building societies. A typical £50,000 loan would cost about £8-£9 a month more with a bank than a building society.

Savers with the converting societies also lost out, receiving an average of 4.41 per cent gross interest on their savings, compared to 4.8 per cent that the mutuals were paying. On a £5,000 deposit, the mutuals win out by £19.20 a year on average.

The converting societies may have been able to get away with poorer rates as they forced members to remain with them in order to receive their cash windfalls.

But figures from the Building Societies Association show that on average banks regularly charge more for mortgage loans than building

societies. In September, for example, the average standard variable rate mortgage from a bank was 8.45 per cent, while the average building society charged a lower 8.13 per cent.

Further evidence of this trend comes from Money-Facts, a provider of interest rate data. It looked at how much interest the top 30 mortgage lenders charged on a £50,000 standard variable rate mortgage in the 12 months to the end of June 1997.

The seven cheapest deals were all offered by building societies. Yorkshire Building Society, for example, charged £299.91 less that year than Bank of Ireland Mortgages charged for the same mortgage.

But the building societies also now compete with direct sellers such as Direct Line and Virgin Direct and new telephone banks such as Scottish Widows Bank and Sainsbury's Bank, which currently offer some of the lowest standard mortgages on the market.

To try and stop these new mortgage providers cutting in on their share of the market, a number of building societies have introduced special deals. For example, Bradford & Bingley, in common with some smaller, regional societies, offers reduced standard variable mortgage rates to long-term borrowers.

Britannia Building Society has a members' loyalty bonus scheme, which pays out an annual bonus to members depending on its annual profits.

Nationwide has given back £400m in total to members in the form of better mortgage and savings rates. Its standard variable mortgage rate is presently 8.1 per cent and it has promised not to raise this before Christmas.

The savings market is just as competitive as that for mortgages. The new banks set up by supermarkets and insurance companies such as Prudential Banking, Legal & General Bank, Scottish Widows Bank, Sun Banking Corporation and Sainsbury's Bank offer some impressive rates, especially for instant access and postal accounts.

Nationwide argues, however, that often these new banks will only offer one or two types of savings account, whereas building societies typically offer a much wider range.

A quick look at the best buy tables shows building societies frequently offer the best deals on long-term savings accounts such as fixed-rate accounts, regular savings accounts, Tassas and bonds.

In the future, it remains to be seen how many building societies will be able to maintain their mutual status. Members may yet be seduced by promises of large windfalls and seek to convert their societies into banks.

In the meantime, they are putting up a fight to retain their members, forcing other financial institutions to offer attractive rates to both savers and borrowers. Long may this last.

fight  
life insur

about the benefits  
society has concentrated  
societies, but the  
the benefits of customer  
ship is being fought  
the insurance industry  
reports

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-

multi-



General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and FCA



[illegible]

do could blame  
none for thinking that  
the path to a house in  
the country is littered  
with failed offers, paper  
work and a long wait  
more than a few who  
give up in London earlier  
this year will find their  
dream of being settled by  
the summer diminishing  
as fast as Penny Jackson  
dreams, there are still  
one for whom a move  
out of town has been a  
difficult decision.

rd lesson  
out movin

I am certain  
 that we never  
 saw them  
 and read no  
 those of you  
 numbered. or  
 should read  
 may have  
 to every aspect  
 here home but  
 now where the  
 book is? Some  
 others are

The first of these is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The second is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The third is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The fourth is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The fifth is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The sixth is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The seventh is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The eighth is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The ninth is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.  
 The tenth is the fact that the  
 Government has not been able to  
 secure the necessary funds to  
 carry out its programme of  
 social and economic reform.

هكذا من الامم



## Rural life beckons? Opt for renting

Who could blame anyone for thinking that the path to a house in the country is littered with failed offers, poor choice and a long wait? More than a few who sold up in London earlier in the year will find their goal of being settled by Christmas diminishing fast. But as Penny Jackson discovers, there are also those for whom a move out of town has been a brilliant decision.

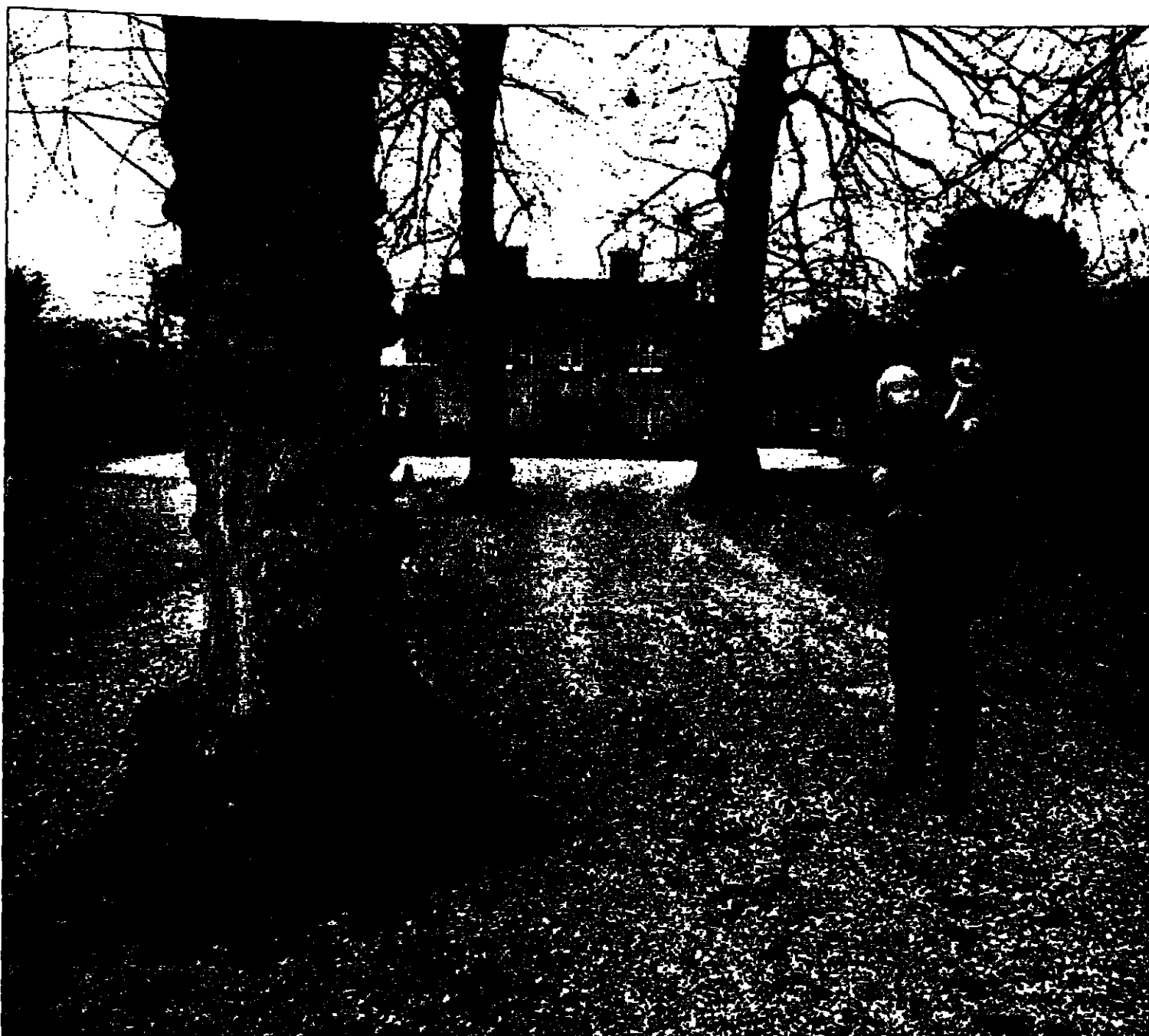
Tales of woe from those who have been house-hunting for years can sound like a catalogue of frustration. It would all be much easier if buyers did not have their hearts set on the same kinds of property. But there are only so many Georgian rectories in nice villages, and the chances are their owners are staying put – if only because they themselves find the alternatives in depressingly short supply. Nevertheless, there are those who manage to move out of town without being reduced to panic.

One couple who abandoned south London for Gloucestershire in the summer had seen enough friends tearing down the motorway to view yet another unsuitable house, to know what course to take.

They are letting their Balham house while renting in the country. "For at least a year and a half we are going to relax and enjoy living here," says Hugo Jackson, an investment broker. "We couldn't face the prospect of house-hunting from London. And this way we can find out which villages we like best. We are able to rent this house for three years, and if we still haven't found the house we want, we will rent again."

Even though Hugo and his wife Serena have no regrets, they do have the comfort of knowing that if it doesn't work out – and commuting does take its toll – they still have their London home. One rent pays for the other and they have no worries about having realised their capital in a rising market.

Not that they are unaware of the difficulties of finding their ideal house. They are not alone in wanting somewhere within 20 minutes of school



At home: Serena Jackson is enjoying the space of their new home, which they are renting while they search for the ideal house John Lawrence

and station or of wanting a Cotswold stone farmhouse.

"We already know of 12 or 14 sets of parents in the school looking for exactly the same thing," says Hugo. However, Serena, who is still enjoying the novelty of so much space for their three sons, has confidence in the power of networking in the playground.

"So many houses never even come on to the market", she says. "Once we took the plunge it wasn't as difficult to move as we feared. It feels like home because we have our furniture and we are not under pressure to buy. I can see how demoralising that would be."

During the past couple of years, reluctant renters have not only brought landlords some unexpectedly good returns, they have even learned

to enjoy being tenants. "Upwards of £2,000 a month buys quality of life without repair liabilities," says Andrew Brown, of Clegg Kennedy Drew, a firm of estate agents. "We have one family who, rather than sell their family home, are letting it out and renting a larger one while their children are young."

Other tenants hope, quite often against the odds, that the house they are renting will eventually come up for sale. "Requests for first refusal are quite common", he says.

As prices in London reached a peak in the spring, so the temptation to sell and move out proved irresistible to many who already had vague plans in mind. "They arrived in Hampshire, guns blazing," recalls Tim Garne,

of Hamptons International. "Even those with cash found it harder than they imagined. It seemed worth it to them to pay well over the odds to secure a house."

Most people, even though in the £350,000 to £450,000 bracket, have to compromise. "Some might go for the right house but in a different area, while others will move into a modern box and wait for more houses to come on to the market. Plenty have been renting for two years longer than they had planned, but often they are stuck because of schools," says Mr Garne.

"There is a danger that their capital will be whittled away if they wait too long." Christine Martin and her husband decided within a couple of days to sell and go.

"When we found that our Ealing house had risen in value in a matter of months we thought we would be foolish to wait. We were out within eight weeks and renting. The fact that we did it on the spur of the moment was exciting rather than nerve-wracking."

The Martins narrowed their choice to Northamptonshire – right school, good rail links and reasonable value for money. Even so, they did not get the 200-year-old house of their dreams. "We would still be waiting now, like many couples we know. As it is, we have a good size house with great potential. So many of the houses we saw were over-developed."

Clearly the longer buyers wait, the harder it is to compromise. In Cirencester, Ru-

pert Barrington of John D. Wood has some clients who have been waiting for five years for property with land. Houses for sale with 10 or 15 acres are few and far between.

When they do come up, it is not uncommon to find someone has paid handsomely to take it out of the market. A 10 per cent premium may well not be enough. Frustrated purchasers have taken the place of disgruntled vendors these days. Those who have taken to dropping on their estate agent at least weekly expect some rewards. But clients not favoured by the phone call can feel aggrieved. "We now refuse to tip anyone off and mail details to everyone at the same time. It seems fairer all round", says Mr Barrington.

PENNY JACKSON



## Swap shop – one agent's remedy for the log-jam

"If I'd earned a pound for every time someone told me they would sell if only they could find somewhere to buy, I wouldn't need to sell houses at all", one estate agent complained the other day. He is not alone.

In Beaconsfield, Timothy Gerrard, of estate agents Rafeity Buckland, is so fed up with the log-jam he has taken matters into his own hands. He is in the process of publishing a mini-magazine with properties people are thinking of selling. "I can already see two owners doing a perfect swap. They don't know it yet but they are just around the corner from each other. Both can afford the other house and they have the same taste."

The enterprising Mr Gerrard decided to get the ball rolling when he found 115 people on the computer in the area who wanted to buy but were anxious about putting their own houses up for sale even though valuations had been done. "Many want to stay in the same road, but are after a house with perhaps a larger garden or one more bedroom, while others want to trade down. Local people often can't compete with the unencumbered buyers from London so this might give them a head-start."

Good news for commuters from Banbury. Chiltern Railways is to cut the journey time between that station and Marylebone by 25 mins. The new, fast, peak-time only service, which will start in May, means that Birmingham to London will take just under two hours instead of 2hr 25 mins, while the journey from Banbury is reduced to an hour from the present 1 hr 25 mins.

According to George Philip in the Banbury office of Lane Fox, the estate agents, this should make a significant difference to the value of property in north Oxfordshire. "Something in the region of 7 to 10 per cent", he says. "This area has been held back by its relatively slow service. It will now be on a par with places like Winchester and Newbury. Chiltern Railways also has plans for a new out-of-town station near Warwick."

Nicholas Brown of Knight Frank in Oxford can also envisage it becoming more viable as a commuter area, as much to those working in Birmingham as in London. "At present, the most popular areas for London commuters are south-west of Oxford, which has good rail links, and east of Oxford, which is the right side for the motorway. They also want to be able to get into the city easily for the schools, so there is enormous demand in the villages within 10 or 15 miles."

Wanted: one careful tenant who loves dogs. The owners of a north London house who are moving overseas next month are so upset at the thought of their pet being separated from its home as well as the family, they are hoping to leave it in situ. The future of Freeway – a Shih Tzu – is hanging in the balance. "It would be lovely if Freeway could stay there," says Susan Gilbert of Knight Frank, who is letting the house between Barnet and Hadley Wood.

"But of course, the owner is prepared to make other arrangements. This is an unusual request, although we did have somebody who left a cat with a year's supply of food." The whole business of pets can be fraught, Ms Gilbert says. A great many landlords refuse to have them in their properties. "This can cause an awful lot of upset. Sometimes a family reluctantly uproots and the one way of making the children feel more at home is by having a pet. It is a terrible dilemma if they find the right house and then discover they can't bring their dog to live there."

Hampstead Lettings, Knight Frank: 0171 431 8686.

## Hard lessons to learn about moving house

House hunters certain that tiny feet will never patter down their hallways need read no further. Those of you already encumbered, or undecided, should read on. You may have considered every aspect of your future home but do you know where the nearest school is? *Gretta Vedrick* offers some guidance.

Romana Roeg searched for "the perfect house" for nine months. It had to have a side entrance for her landscape gardening business but, more important, had to be near the school of choice for her daughter, Ava.

She found her dream home, in the right borough and only a couple of streets away from the Telegraph Hill school, in south London, but was shocked when Ava didn't get in. She says: "Even though we're close, we're nearer to another school. Ironically, if we'd bought somewhere down the road, and further away, we would have got in because there's no other school nearby."

Ms Roeg found that siblings get first choice and children new

to the area are offered a place at their nearest school, as long as their parents apply. Borough lines are irrelevant. She appealed: "It was horrendous. I felt the headteacher was sitting there grinning like a Cheshire cat knowing we wouldn't get in." Her house no longer felt perfect. Eventually Ms Roeg found a school she liked further away which, happily, had a place for Ava. Her advice to other parents? "Do your research properly."

Stephen and Joy Darwen did their research. They found an idyllic retreat in Coulsdon, in Surrey, with a nearby school for daughters Sara and Ruth. They put their Crystal Palace town house on the market, got a buyer and told the local school that their children were leaving.

When the buyer dropped out the Darwens became nervous. After the second buyer dropped out they panicked. "At the worst point, I registered with 12 estate agents, advertised in every publication going, had a saleboard made and gave A4 colour posters to 30 local shops. A lot of shopkeepers wouldn't put up the posters until they'd looked themselves. They thought I was so desperate it had to be a bargain but even then they didn't want it," says Mr Darwen.

After five buyers dropped

out, Mr Darwen found himself driving halfway across the country in search of the origin of one of the many long chains in which he was involved, but even that didn't help. The Darwens became exhausted by the daily 24-mile trip to the new school. "The children thought it was bizarre. We'd drive past their old school, they'd see their friends and demand 'Why can't we go there?' I just gritted my teeth. I thought it would go on forever," says Joy Darwen. The family finally moved eight months later.

Schools do not generally take children before their housing situation is resolved despite parents' pleas. Peter Coleman, head of Goodrich School, in East Dulwich, London, received over 200 applications for 90 places this year and has seen it all: "Parents show letters from estate agents [or] solicitors. One even slapped his cheque book down and said 'how much?'"

Not even a "donation to school funds" guarantees a place. "We won't consider you until exchange of contracts," Mr Coleman links desperation to the family's particular circumstances: "It's acute when people move into the area with three school-age children and have to find a house and three places simultaneously."

Diana Hamilton at Roy



Romana Roeg found a house near the school she wanted for her daughter, Ava, but was appalled to find she couldn't get in Peter Macdarmid

Brooks, a firm of estate agents with offices in south London, describes buyers who are also looking for schools: "They come in and you can see anxiety on their faces. We've all been there, they're desperate. If you've got a property very near to a good school they'll pay more and be prepared to suffer one room less or a small garden just to get in." In fact, another agent admits that, in its view, it may be cheaper to pay for private schooling rather

than buy an overpriced house for its position.

Parents should be wary of taking estate agents' advice on catchment areas as local authorities use different criteria. Mr Coleman explains: "It's convoluted. Priority areas were abandoned in favour of distance to the school, as people assumed they would get places and didn't."

"We can't offer places to people who live nearer another school." He blames estate agents for misleading parents: "They

advertise houses as being in our 'catchment area' but there's no such thing. Parents buy on the strength of estate agents' blurb and it's just not true." So why say it? "Because it shifts houses," says Mr Coleman.

John Thorogood, a Battersea estate agency, recently got a ticking off from a local school for advertising properties as being in its "catchment area". The marketing ploy was effective as an alternative to "betwixt the commons", but the

school said it could never guarantee places even for houses in the same road.

Parents denied places at schools often sacrifice their homes for education. Mr Coleman tells of parents he's turned down who immediately put their house on the market and others who are prepared to rent just to get in.

Fraudsters should beware: "We catch people who don't live where they say they do and we can withdraw the place." Mr

Coleman meticulously measures the more contentious areas around the school but parents still challenge his measurements for – largely unsuccessful – appeals. As I left Goodrich School an anxious-looking man panted past. I couldn't be certain, but I think he was wearing a pedometer.

John Thorogood: 0171 228 7474; Roy Brooks: 0181 299 3021; Goodrich School: 0181 693 1050.





# 11/PROPERTY

## A slow pace wins hands-down in the house-moving race

Boxes, bubble wrap, straps, packing material, paracetamol, Prozac - it's moving day. Plenty of people move home happily, cheaply and successfully with a man and a van, and even with only a van. Others move traumatically with high-priced professionals. Even if you have your act together, others will be clueless. Robert Liebman helps you across the threshold.

Removal-industry insiders have warehouses full of horror stories. Linda Schofield, marketing manager of Pickfords, says that "many people move into a property which they have seen only once. When they arrive they find that there is no room for the cooker, or it fits, but it is a gas cooker, and there is no gas supply."

"There is always stress and always surprises," says Sarah Kampe, the moving force behind Moving Solutions. "For example, our eyes tend to gloss over our kitchen appliances, and it doesn't happen often, but occasionally someone will forget to take their refrigerator or cooker."

Some people move into converted properties which have large rooms and also, they soon discover, unusually narrow corridors. "The rooms themselves are spacious but there is a dogleg turn in the hallway. If you have not arranged for a crane, you end up with a piano or wardrobe with nowhere to go," says Ms Kampe.

Civil war is a common barrier to smooth moves. "Even though a couple is splitting up, you would think that they would at least communicate about the move and who gets what," says Ms Schofield at Pickfords. "But many quarrelling couples use moving day as a sorting day, so it takes twice as long."

Ms Kampe agrees that multiple locations are a recipe for disaster. "When some items are staying and some are going, or furniture is moving to two addresses or some is going into storage, something is certain to end up in the wrong place."

When Ms Kampe handles a move, she verifies the correct completion time. Often the incoming family arrive at noon but the keys aren't available until two or three o'clock. "I've heard of people waiting in the lorry for seven hours."

While waiting, there is generally little to do except cultivate an ulcer farm. And they are the lucky ones.

Good planning is vital, and 90 per cent of good planning means planning well in advance. Almost everyone grossly underestimates the time and effort needed to pack, and some people take this to the extreme. William Karlsake, of the south London removers Ward-Thomas, remembers one seller who "waited until literally the 11th hour to hire a self-move van and start packing and loading. They were still at it at midnight."

Removal companies need notice to reserve the appropriate lorry. Aside from owning twice as much as you think you do, numerous factors need investigating, including insurance.

Many standard household contents

policies cover removals. But Keith McGregor, assistant household underwriting manager for Royal & Sun Alliance, warns: "Most insurers will insist that brittle and breakable items, like china and other glass items, be packed and moved by professionals. And we anticipate that these items are going into the new premises. Furnishings going into storage are excluded."

Selecting a removal company can be tricky. Ms Kampe notes that it is not enough to obtain several quotes. "You need to find out what is included. Quotes can vary by £1,000 or more. But how many men are included? How large is the lorry? How many trips will be required? Without an-

swers to these questions, you can't compare like with like."

Some variables don't show up in the numbers. "In the busy season the less reputable companies are less discriminating in who they hire," notes Ms Kampe.

Professional removals people know things we don't know, like how to correctly pack delicate items. They have things we don't have, like tail-lift trucks and trolleys.

Large companies such as Pickfords offer a self-move service that includes van hire and packing materials delivered in advance. Pickfords can also arrange for a plumber, electrician, carpenter or other craftsman as part of a full-service move.

And organisations such as Moving Solutions can arrange for just about everything, including advice on local schools and redirecting the post. "I have a huge checklist and cover things people might overlook, like whether a cat flap has to be cut in the new door. We can attend to council tax, photography, telephone, cleaning old and new premises, and arranging plumbing for the washing machine," says Ms Kampe.

If entirely stress-free moves are rare, traumatic relocations are also unusual. With removal companies, size matters, but so does temperament. Mr Karlsake classifies removal companies as "sympathetic or surly". A large sympathetic company can

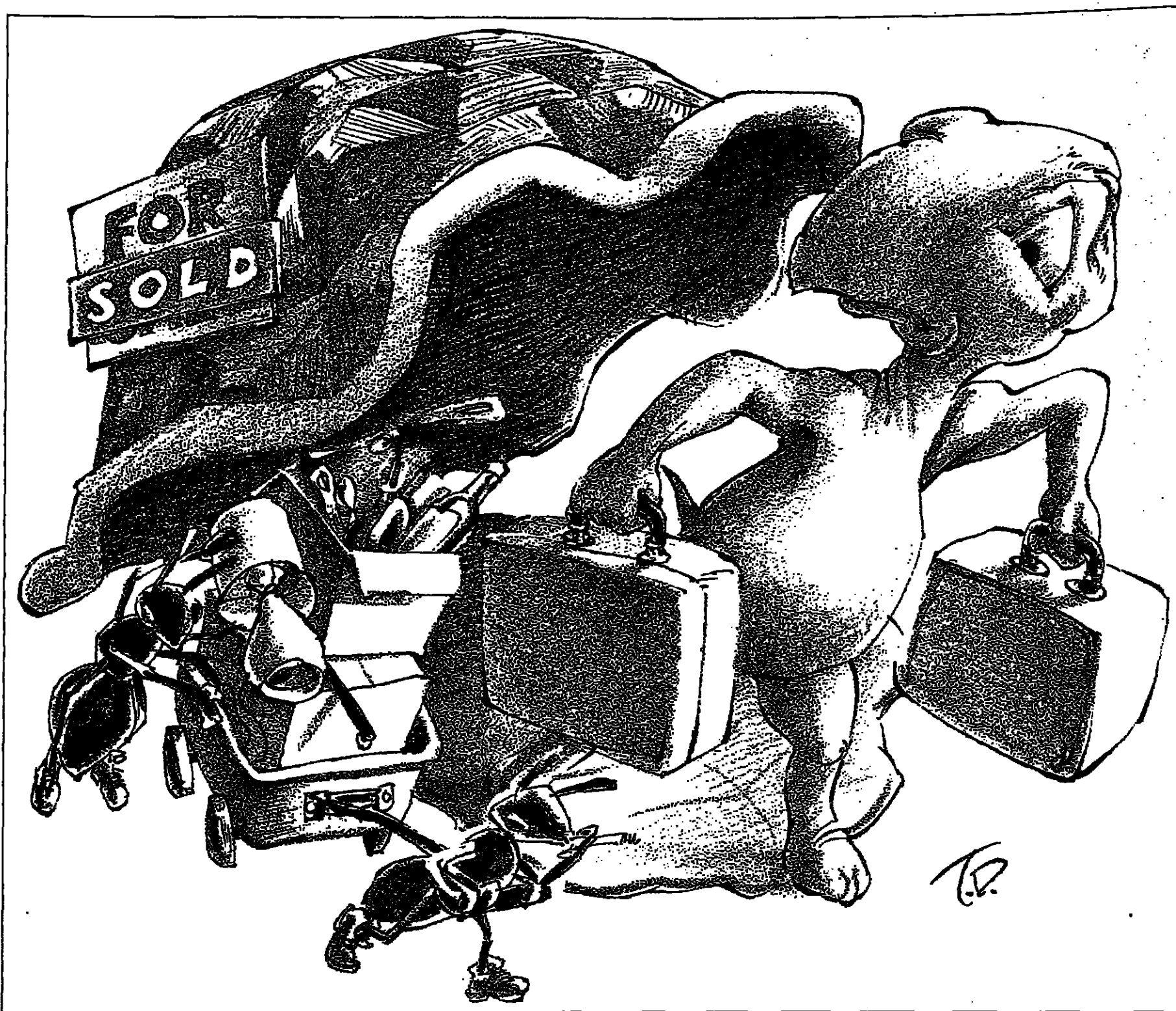
cushion many a hard landing. In the move involving the half-day wait to midnight, "we had other crews who had long finished their jobs and we were able to re-direct them to help us when we finally started unloading."

Worse luck befell a family who arrived at their new home only to discover that the old owner refused to complete. The sale was off. "Except that they had vacated their home and all of their belongings were in the truck in front," says Mr Karlsake.

Quick action on all fronts salvaged the wreck. "Their estate agent immediately found an empty house for them to rent. We delivered some furniture to the rental house and put the rest into storage."

Pickfords' Ms Schofield cautions that "moving is not just being transported from A to B, it is more than lift and shift. It is to get you settled in." Preferably in one piece emotionally as well as physically.

*Moving Solutions, 36 Denton Street, London SW18 2JS. 0181 355 4477; Pickfords, Herriage House, 345 Southbury Road, Enfield EN1 1UP. 0181 219 8000; Ward Thomas Removals, 13 Abbey Business Centre, Ingate Place, London SW8 3NS. 0171 498 0144; 13a Heath Street, London NW3 6TP. 0171 794 0600; Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7HQ. 0171 600 3333.*



## Is your mortgage a source of stress?

Have you really got the mortgage you wanted? Judging by the number of complaints from borrowers about their lenders' practices, particularly over discrepancies in charges, perhaps not. Ian Morse weighs up the evidence.

Each bank and building society has its own internal complaints procedure for dealing with borrowers who have a grievance. Once this procedure is completed, and if the borrower remains unsatisfied by any compensation they have been offered, the case can be taken either to the Bank or Building Society ombudsman. Those dealing with an intermediary, such as a mortgage broker, can take their complaint to the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Last year, the Banking Ombudsman received 775 mortgage-related complaints, of which 109 were fully investigated, with half of these resulting in awards to the borrower in excess of those first proposed by the banks in question. Meanwhile, the Building Society Ombudsman received 5,800 mortgage complaints for the year 1995-96. Of these, 173 concerned discrepancies on mortgage payments, and a further 218 covered cases that included computer error.

But the real figures may never be known since the ac-

tual level of complaints made is higher. Complaints made direct to a lender which then offers compensation accepted by a borrower need not be reported to the relevant Ombudsman. But in adjudicating a case, the Ombudsman can look beyond legal requirements to what is fair or reasonable when considering a particular case.

Chris Eadie, deputy Bank Ombudsman, says: "The onus is on the lender to make the terms of a mortgage as clear as possible. Annual statements should include the term of your mortgage, as well as any charges and changes to interest rates during the year."

Mr Eadie adds: "While a building society might have handled things one way, after they convert to bank status a different corporate culture may prevail."

In particular, he is concerned about the rising number of cases which result from a mortgage term being lengthened after the account has gone into temporary arrears, where borrowers are not first asked if they would like to pay more instead.

Mr Eadie advises borrowers to look carefully at their annual mortgage statement: "[This is] the consumer's first line of defence." But some lenders do not include enough information on these statements to enable borrowers to check whether their payments are correct.

All large mortgage lenders in the UK, whether banks or building societies, are members

of the Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML). Since earlier this year, the CML has operated a Mortgage Code which includes a commitment by members to "help you to understand how your mortgage account works" and "correct errors and handle complaints speedily."

Elsewhere, the code specifies: "If there have been any significant changes (to your mortgage) in one year, we will give you or send you a copy of the new terms and conditions or a summary of changes."

The Mortgage Code has only been in existence since July of this year, and is due for review at its first anniversary. At present, membership of the CML is in effect two tier, with full membership open to mortgage lenders, and associate membership open to other firms with significant involvement in this market. However, full membership will be open to mortgage intermediaries, such as brokers and financial advisers, from next spring.

Statements by some large lenders, including Abbey National, Barclays and Midland Bank, do not include the interest rates charged. Instead, lenders need only give notice of rate changes by advertising them in newspapers and branches, or posting out notice of changes when they occur. Some lenders, again including Abbey National, do not make it clear on the annual statement whether a mortgage is on a repayment or interest-only basis. Most do not give the outstanding mortgage term.

Sue Anderson, at the CML,

admits: "The code does not specify what information should be included in an annual statement, because we don't want to be too prescriptive." But she adds: "There is no compulsion on members to enforce the code in a uniform way. After all, [we are] a trade association."

Ms Anderson is unwilling to comment on whether the CML will ask members to introduce a uniform standard of disclosure on annual mortgage statements. Meanwhile, it is better to check than be overcharged.

Sorting out all the information you require to check whether your statement is correct may necessitate contacting your lender by phone or letter.

Typical information you need to know includes:

- The balance of your loan outstanding at the start and end of the period covered by your annual statement.
- Any changes in interest rates over the period and when they were applied to your loan.
- Any changes in the balance of the loan within the period.
- The amount of any charges (home insurance, for example) other than interest or capital on the loan made through monthly payments.
- The amount of any administrative charges which may be debited to your account as separate items.
- Anyone with arrears on their account should also confirm whether or not the remaining term of their mortgage has been extended.



### 'My loan jumped from 25 years to 35 without my consent'

Simon Williams has a mortgage with Abbey National. This is his story.

"In 1991, I took out a 25-year repayment mortgage with the Abbey National for £33,375. In August this year, I went to a local branch to check out my account details. Purely by chance I was allowed to look at my account details on the mortgage adviser's monitor, and saw my outstanding mortgage term was given as 34 years and eight months."

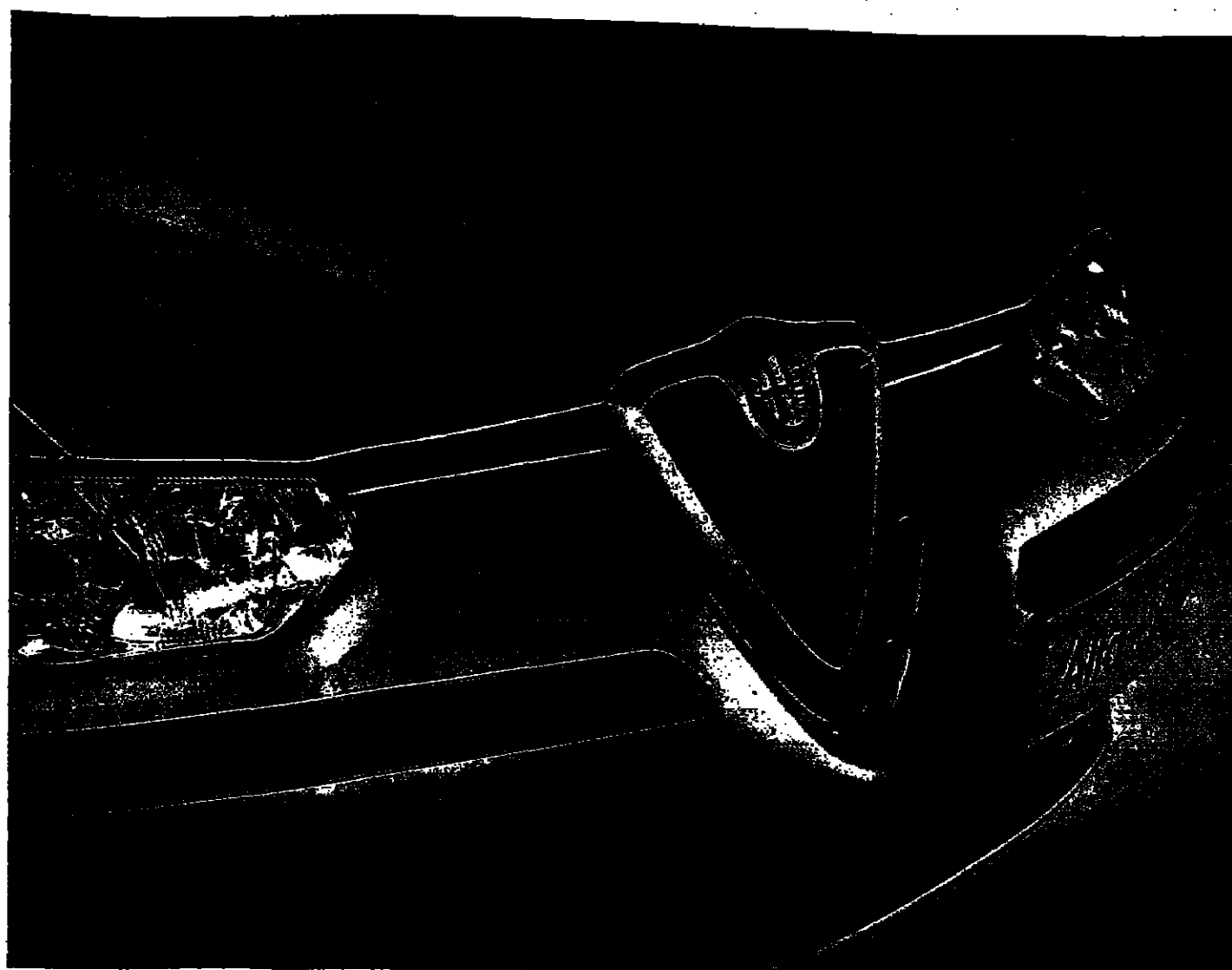
After six weeks of waiting, Abbey explained that although the contract had been for a 25-year repayment mortgage, they had set up the loan on an interest-only basis, with a 60-year term. They went on to admit: "This was identified in 1993, when the computer system re-calculated all extended terms to 35 years." At no time did I receive any notification of these changes, which had been carried out without my consent. Abbey National wrote: "It should have been clear that your outstanding balance was not decreasing as you expected."

But with a repayment mortgage, I expected the first few years of monthly payments would mainly meet interest charges rather than capital repayment.

Abbey's end-of-year statements made no mention of type of mortgage, interest-rate changes, or outstanding term. I [complained and] was offered £326.63 against excess interest paid on the account, plus £500 towards the capital sum. Abbey wrote to me again in November this year, saying my case might take time to investigate, and asking me to suggest a figure for final compensation as part of an "experiment being carried out this month".

But I intend taking this case to the Banking Ombudsman, unless they re-instate my original mortgage. What worries me most is that all this only came to light by chance, and then my persistence in pursuing the matter. Finally, I am still awaiting a full breakdown of my account details."

Mr Williams' case is now being dealt with by Abbey National's secretariat, which has responsibility for investigating complaints in the final stage of the bank's complaint procedure. Ian Hart, manager of the secretariat, refuses to comment on the case but says the so-called experiment of asking complainants to suggest a compensation figure is standard practice and was not just "being carried out this month".



## The image consists of three vertically stacked, high-contrast black and white photographs. The top photograph shows a close-up of a curved, textured surface, possibly a car's dashboard or door panel, with a bright, curved highlight. The middle photograph shows a circular instrument cluster or gauge, with a horizontal bar or needle extending across it. The bottom photograph shows a close-up of a car's steering wheel, with the circular instrument cluster visible in the center. The images are grainy and have a high-contrast, almost abstract quality.

aura of zing and zest, it fires the soul. It's been a while since a Car of the Year winner has done that.

**Alfa 156 2.0 T.Spark 16V**  
£19,500. Engine, 1,970cc, four cylinders, 16 valves, 155bhp at 6,400rpm. Five-speed gearbox, front-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 134mph, 0-60 in 8.4sec. Fuel consumption: 28-33mpg

**Rivals:**  
Audi A4 1.8T, £21,881: Good-looking, beautifully made, quick and frugal, but less of an interactive driving experience.  
BMW 323i, £21,840: With the 320i's mysterious departure, there is no direct BMW rival for the 156 2.0. This one is faster, smoother, pricier.  
Peugeot 406 2.0T SRI, £17,885: Compensates on power and poise if not the noise.  
Subaru Impreza Turbo, £19,1K: Slightly smaller than Alfa, has huge pace, astounding four-wheel drive roadholding, cult-car character.  
Volkswagen Passat 1.8T Sport SE, £18,795: Mechanically A4-like but roomier and cheaper.

should I support it? The anti-A class momentum among Coty members helped the Alfa. It is a car of completely different character. The A-class is futuristic and will be widely copied. That is why—even if it lost the Coty prize—it will be remembered as the most important car of the year. The 156, on the other hand, is a car of great emotional appeal—like all great Alfas. It looks fabulous and drives brilliantly. But, optional hi-tech diesel engine excepted, the 156 is not a landmark in the history of motoring, even if it is a significant car in the recent history of Alfa.

Instead, the Coty jury, unusually this year, voted with their hearts. When I discovered that the 156 had won, I was delighted. Hang its "big picture" relevance. Here is a car that makes you feel good about driving and about cars. Here is a gorgeous piece of *fin-de-siècle* industrial design. Here is a car that buyers will love owning and show off with pride to friends. Here, in short, is a worthy car of the year.

wasn't much chance of him shifting two tons of 4 x 4, but my wife managed to persuade him that gyrating on the bull bars would do the trick. It did.

All this led to a another new engine in December '96, and a gearbox that was increasingly difficult to use. That's the abridged version; the problems have persisted and last week I was told another replacement engine is required. We are now on gearbox number four.

Ironically, as a solicitor I have man-

Registration Numbers									
MARKET RESEARCH									
BY CASH HILL DRIVE, CHORLEY, P.O. 100									
AGA 87	1650	PH FCA	1000	LAC 45	1500	PHR 558	1465		
389 AD 1	1200	LA 100	1000	LA 100	1000	894 RH	3000		
78 AL	1500	1000 AL/KAN	1000	LA 9705	1000	PHR 780	1000		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
389 AD 1	1500	FE 27	1000	LA 100	1000	PHR 780	1000		
20 BEA	2200	FF 300	1400	15 7772	2000	SAD 89	1000		
876 RH	1500	PH 886	1500	12 MA	1000	SP 1665	100		
38									

Cop cars lead a brutally hard life, from stop-start beat work to high performance pursuit, but once off shift they receive the undivided attentions of the Police Vehicle Maintenance System. Buying one is an opportunity to buy a one-owner, well serviced car at a low price.

There is no such thing as the typical ex-police car. At the traffic police end, there are Ford Granadas, Vauxhall Senators and Rover 800s. There are also Jaguar XJ6s, Range Rovers and Sierra 4 x 4s, and on the panda beat, reliable old plodders such as Escorts, Metros and Astras. A lot of forces, such as the City of London, have used

Most cars have manual gearboxes, though the Metropolitan Traffic division are predominantly automatic. Model inscriptions are removed; central locking usually remains, although most forces disconnect it. Luxury cars may lose their wooden dashboard trimmings and electric windows.

Plain clothes cars may have been bought second hand, or acquired by the force (sometimes stolen and recovered).

In simple terms, what you get is a car that has covered between 80,000 and 100,000 miles. Probably the most disappointing

ing aspect is that you don't get any of the cop car kit. Off come the police decals and "flowerpots" (beacons) and out come the radios. Sometimes this can leave a mess. But traffic cars in particular often use removable gantries for the beacons.

As for the decals, a good valet can usually remove the adhesive - and in any case white is an easy colour to work with.

The upholstery on most cars is surprisingly hard wearing, though front seats can get shabby, and Pundras are likely to carry rear seat passengers, not all of whom go quickly.

The cars are serviced before

placing will be replaced - including gearboxes and engines. Records will have been kept but they won't necessarily come with the car.

Police cars are not sold directly to the public; they go to auction. Prices hover around 50 per cent of the normal trade price. Phone around to find what cars are going to be at which auction.

If you don't want to risk bidding at auction, try an ex-police service vehicle specialist such as Rex Adair, in Cornwall.

But whatever ex-police car you choose, may the fate be with you.

*Rex Adair. 01736 76.3231*